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AN

HISTORICAL DISCOURSE

IN

Commemoration of the Two-Hundredth Anniversary

OF THE

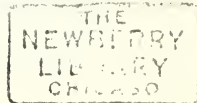
SETTLEMENT OF NORWALK, CT., IN 1651:

DELIVERED IN THE

First Congregational Church in Norwalk, July 9, 1851.

BY REV. NATHANIEL BOUTON,

OF CONCORD, N. H.



NEW YORK:

S. W. BENEDICT, 16 SPRUCE STREET.

1851.

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A DISCOURSE

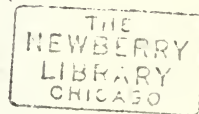
ON THE

TWO-HUNDREDTH ^{300.} ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

SETTLEMENT OF NORWALK.

CONN.



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Bouton, Nathaniel.

An historical discourse in commemoration of the two-hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Norwalk, Ct., in 1651; delivered in the First Congregational church in Norwalk, July 9, 1851 . . . New York, S. W. Benedict, 1851.

80 pp. 8°.

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Norwalk, July 9, 1851.

REV. NATHANIEL BOUTON,

Dear Sir,

In behalf of their fellow citizens, this day assembled to commemorate the Two-Hundredth Anniversary of the settlement of the Town, the undersigned, appointed a committee for that purpose at the close of the public exercises of the occasion, would return you the cordial thanks of the people for your highly interesting and able Discourse, and would respectfully solicit a copy of the same for publication.

1290

GEO. W. BETTS,

EDWIN HALL,

C. E. DISBROW,

S. W. BENEDICT,

Committee.

TO
THE INHABITANTS OF THE TOWN OF NORWALK;
AND TO THE
DESCENDANTS OF THE ORIGINAL SETTLERS,
SCATTERED IN EVERY PART OF OUR COMMON COUNTRY;

This Discourse

IS VERY RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED BY

THE AUTHOR.

Ms. A. 23 May 23

DISCOURSE.

It must be deemed most appropriate to this occasion, to acknowledge with profound gratitude, at the very commencement of these services, the Divine goodness to us and to our fathers; and to adopt, as significant of our design, the inspired declaration: "ONE GENERATION SHALL PRAISE THY WORKS UNTO ANOTHER AND SHALL DECLARE THY MIGHTY ACTS."* We meet to commemorate the settlement of the town; to repeat the names, rehearse the deeds, enumerate the trials, sacrifices and sufferings; to celebrate, and, we trust, to imitate the virtues of our ancestors. Some of us come with glad hearts from remote places to greet kindred and friends; to visit once more our native HOMES—the loved scenes of our childhood and youth—to see where our fathers first built their habitations and to walk over their graves. We come to survey once more from nature's amphitheater of hills and from the top of "the rocks," a scene more beautiful and picturesque of islands and main, of sea and land, of hill and dale, of dwellings and ships, than ever in other spots, saluted our eyes. We all meet

* Ps. 145 : 4.

to praise and to give thanks to the God of our fathers, that through his benignant Providence, the "lines" of our nativity or our habitation "are fallen to us in these pleasant places," and that we derive from them "this goodly heritage."

Two hundred years ago the present season, the settlement of this town was begun. At a session of the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut, 26th June, 1650, NATHANIEL ELY and RICHARD OLMSTEAD in the behalf of themselves and other inhabitants of Hartford, desired the leave and approbation of the Court for planting of Norwaake;* to whom an answer was returned in substance as follows: "That the Court could not but approve of the endeavors of men for the further improvement of the wilderness, by the beginning and carrying on of new plantations in an orderly way; and leaving the consideration of the just grounds of the proceedings of the petitioners to its proper place, did manifest their willingness to promote their design by all due encouragement, in case their way for such an undertaking were found clear and good; and provided the numbers and quality of those that engage therein appear to be such as may rationally carry on the work to the advantage of the public welfare and peace; that they may make preparations and provisions for their own defence and safety, that the country may not be exposed to unnecessary trouble and danger in these hazardous times; that the divisions of lands there to such as shall inhabit, be made by just rules and with the approbation

* The spelling is retained as in the original record.

of a committee appointed for that end by this Court or to be rectified by the Court in case of aberrations, and that they attend a due payment of their proportions in all public charges, with a ready observation of the other wholesome orders of the country."*

This is the first mention of Norwalk in the ancient records of the Colony. In order to understand distinctly the situation of the place at that time, and the preparatory steps to its settlement, it may be briefly stated that the Connecticut colony was begun in 1635, by emigrants from the vicinity of Boston: "About one hundred men, women, and children, took their departure from Dorchester, Newtown† and Watertown, to travel on foot through an unbroken wilderness. They were fourteen days performing the tedious journey. The wilderness then for the first time resounded with the praises of God. They prayed and sung psalms and hymns as they marched along; the Indians following and looking on in silent admiration.‡ These emigrants were of the true Puritan stock—pilgrims fled from oppression and persecution in their native land. They settled, with others, that soon followed, in Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield.§

* See Colonial Records of Conn., 1636—1665, p. 210, published by J. Hammond Trumbull, Secretary of State: Hartford, 1850.

† Now Cambridge.

‡ Mass. Hist. Coll., 1st Series, vol. v. p. 167.

§ Among the early settlers of Windsor, we recognize the names of several whose descendants are *now with us* or *of us*. One was the Rev. EPHRAIM HURT, who came over in 1639, and was colleague pastor with the Rev. John Warham; another was JOHN BISSELL, who came over

The original occupants of this soil, as of all other parts of New England, were Indians. Here they constituted parts of two clans, one occupying the east and the other the west side of the river. These Indians were at the time tributary to the Mohawks, a powerful tribe whose head-quarters were beyond Albany, but whose conquests had extended over most of the tribes west of the Connecticut river and on Long Island. The Indians on Long Island and on the main opposite, it is said, "were counted more barbarous, treacherous and false, than any other sort of them."*

The first purchase of these lands from the Indians, was made by ROGER LUDLOW, Esq., on the east side of the river, 26th Feb. 1640; and on the west side by Capt. DANIEL PATRICK, 20th April, 1640. The consideration for the land, given by Mr. Ludlow was, "eight fathom of

with Mr. Huit, and was one of the deputies at the General Court that answered the petition for the settling of Norwalk. He is supposed to have been the ancestor of Gov. *Clarke Bissell* of Norwalk. The life of Mr. Huit was short, but he left his impress on his generation, and his character survives in his descendants. On his tombstone in the old burying-ground at Windsor, is the following quaint, but most expressive inscription:

"Who, while he lived, we drew our vital breath;
Who, when he died, his dying was our death;
Who was the stay of State, the Church's staff;
Alas! the times forbid an epitaph."

Mr. Huit died Sept. 4, 1644. Johnson says of him:

"And Huit had his arguings strong and right."

The name is spelt Henit, Hewyt, Hewitt. He is believed to have been the ancestor of Rev. Nathaniel Hewitt, D.D., now of Bridgeport, Conn., who was present at the celebration.

* Hubbard's Narrative, Mass. Hist. Coll.

wampum,* six coats, ten hatchets, ten hoes, ten knives, ten scissors, ten jews-harps, ten fathom tobacco, three kettles of six hands about, ten looking-glasses." And for this he received "all the lands, meadows, pasturing, trees, whatsoever there is, and grounds between the two rivers, the one called Norwalke, the other Soakatuck, to the middle of said rivers, from the sea a day's walk into the country."†

Captain Patrick's purchase made of three Indian sachems, extended from the middle of the river to a western bound called Noewanton, including two islands, and "as farr up in the country as an Indian can goe in a day, from sun risinge to sun settinge;" and "all trees, meadows, waters, and naturell adjuncts thereunto belonging." For this he agreed to pay, of wampum ten fathoms, hatchets three, hoes three,—when ships come,—six glasses, twelve tobacco pipes, three knives, ten drills, ten needles"—this, as "full satisfaction for the aforementioned lands;" and for the peaceable possession of which, Mahachemill, one of the Indians, "did promise and undertake to silence all opposers of the purchase, if any should in his time act."‡

We may have the curiosity to know who were Roger

* Wampum is Indian money. "It was of two kinds. One white, made of the stem or stock of the *periwinkle*—of this sort six passed for an English penny. The other was black or blue, made of the shell of the poquonock or round clam, of which sort three made a penny."—*Roger Williams' Key, &c.*

† See Ancient Historical Records of Norwalk, by Edwin Hall, 1847, page 30.

‡ Records of Norwalk, p. 31.

Ludlow, Esq. and Capt. Daniel Patrick: of what right, and by what authority did they, personally and in their own names, make these purchases of the Indians? Roger Ludlow came out from England in 1630, as one of the magistrates of the Massachusetts colony. He was reputed "a pious gentleman of good family in the west of England;" he belonged to the same company with Gov. John Winthrop, Thomas Dudley, and "some eminent and noted ministers, such as Mr. Wilson, Mr. George Phillips and Mr. Warham." He remained in the Massachusetts colony, in honor and office,—one year Deputy Governor—till 1635; then removed to Connecticut, settled at Windsor, and from the first was one of the principal men in the colony. Every year he was either Assistant or Deputy Governor till 1654. Distinguished for his knowledge of the civil law, he was appointed to draw up a code for the government of the colony;—which he did, and the same was adopted as Ludlow's Code in 1650. After the defeat and destruction of the Pequot Indians, at the Mystic fort, by Capt. Mason, 1637, Ludlow was deputed as one of the magistrates, to accompany the victorious soldiers, westward, in pursuit of such Indians as had escaped: and he followed them in their flight along the coast to the celebrated swamp, Sasco, in Fairfield, where another fight took place and more of the savages were slain. This excursion westward gave him a view of the beautiful and fertile region about Fairfield; and at the time or soon after he projected a settlement there. In 1639, he removed from Windsor to Fairfield, and with eight or ten families,

began a plantation.* His residence at Fairfield was his introduction to Norwalk; the eastern part of which he purchased in 1640. He probably did this on his personal responsibility, and without the approbation of the Court. Eminent as he was in abilities, Mr. Ludlow was evidently of an ambitious and selfish spirit; and sometimes adopted measures for his own interest, for which he incurred censure. For certain proceedings about Fairfield, in 1639, when Deputy Governor, he was called to account, and made an apology which was not accepted. To purchase land of the Indians for one's private advantage and without the authority of the Court, was contrary to the New England laws, and soon after to the special order of the General Court of Connecticut.† In 1653, Mr. Ludlow imprudently engaged in hostile measures against the Dutch; and took the command of a company of soldiers at Fairfield, for the purpose of carrying the war into New York, "against the Manhadoes." Incurring still further the disapprobation of the authority, and fearing probably worse consequences, he suddenly departed from the colony, to Virginia—carrying the original records of Fairfield, of which he was town-clerk, away with him.‡

Of Captain Patrick, we can say much less to his credit. He was a soldier by profession. With scarcely an exception, in every notice of him, in early records, we find him

* See Prince's Annals, 1630. Winthrop's Journal, vol. i., Col. Rec. of Conn. and Holmes' Annals, v. i., p. 253.

† Col. Rec. p. 35 and 402; also Mass. Hist. Col., 1st Series, pp. 174-178.

‡ For a more full account of Ludlow, see Winthrop's Journal; Trum. Hist. Conn. vol. i. ch. 11, and Col. Rec.

engaged in some sort of quarrel, either public or private. He came to this country in 1630, with the goodly company to which Ludlow belonged. He settled, first, at Watertown; had command of forty Massachusetts men in the Pequot war; and was in the swamp fight in Fairfield, 1637. But I will tell his story in the language of Governor Winthrop, who knew him well. Under date of 1643, he says: "About this time, Captain Daniel Patrick was killed at Stamford, by a Dutchman, who shot him dead with a pistol. This captain was entertained by us, out of Holland (where he was a common soldier of the Prince's guard), to exercise our men. We made him a captain, and maintained him. After, he was admitted a member of the church of Watertown, and a freeman. But he grew very proud and vicious; for, though he had a wife of his own, a good Dutch woman, and comely, yet he despised her, and followed after other women; and perceiving that he was discovered, and that such evil courses would not be endured here, and being, withal, of a vain and unsettled disposition, he went from us, and sat down within twenty miles of the Dutch [at Greenwich], and put himself under their protection, and joined their church, without being dismissed from Watertown. But when the Indians arose in those parts, he fled to Stamford, and there was slain. The Dutchman who killed him, was apprehended, but made an escape: and this was the fruit of his wicked course, and breach of covenant with his wife, with the church, and with that state who had called him, and maintained him; and he found his death from that hand where he sought protection. It is observable, that he was killed upon the

Lord's day, in the time of the afternoon exercise, (for he seldom went to the public assemblies.) It was in Captain Underhill's house. The Dutchman had charged him with treachery, for causing one hundred and twenty men to come to him, upon his promise to direct them to the Indians, &c., but deluded them. Whereupon the captain gave him ill language, and spit in his face; and turning to go out, the Dutchman shot him behind, in the head; so he fell down dead, and never spake."^{*}

I shall not here enter into the question, whether the consideration paid the Indians by Ludlow and Patrick, for their lands, was adequate and fair. At that period, lands in a wilderness state had scarcely even a *nominal* value. As late as 1713, Massachusetts made a grant of 107,793 acres of land to Connecticut, which was sold in shares, at the average rate of one farthing per acre.[†] Much less shall I attempt to vindicate the right of Ludlow and Patrick, to make the purchase for themselves; all we can say, is, that *at that time* there was no law in the Connecticut colony prohibiting it. The purchase, however, being made, was regarded as valid. Hence, the intended settlers, before their application to the General Court, 26th June, 1650, had made an agreement, 19th June, with Mr. Ludlow, for his interest in the lands on the east side of the river; and immediately after, 1st July, obtained a confirmation to themselves of Captain Patrick's purchase.[‡] On the 15th February, following, 1651, they obtained a deed from Ruckinheage, and other

* Winthrop's Journal, vol. ii., p. 151.

† Trum. Hist. Conn., p. 447.

‡ Rec. of Norwalk, pp. 32-34.

Indians, of another tract of land, lying west of Patrick's purchase, at Rooton, and along by a brook called Pam-paskeshanke, up into the country, by marked trees, to an undefined extent, for which they paid "thirty fathom of wampum, ten kettles, fifteen coats, ten pair of stockings, ten knives, ten hooks, twenty pipes, ten mucks, and ten needles."*

In their agreement with Ludlow, the intended settlers covenant and promise, "that they will set upon the planting of the said Norwalke with all convenient speed, and be ready at the opening of the ensuing spring, to begin and inhabit with some considerable company; that they will invite an orthodox and approved minister, as speedily as possible; that their plantation shall consist of at least thirty approved families, and that they will not receive in any, that they be obnoxious to the public good of the commonwealth of Connecticut." Upon these considerations, Mr. Ludlow surrenders his right to the lands in Norwalk, requiring the settlers to pay to him only the reasonable sum of £15, which he said was the original cost, with interest thereon from the time of his purchase, and guaranteeing a convenient lot for his sons.†

On such terms was the plantation of Norwalk begun, in the spring of 1651. Accordingly, on the 11th September following, at a general Court in Hartford, it was ordered, "that Norwauke shall be a town, and that they provide an inhabitant, according to order, who shall seasonably be tendered to take the oath of constable."‡

* For deeds, &c., of these purchases, see Rec. of Norwalk, pp. 33-34.

† Rec. of Norwalk, p. 33.

‡ Col. Rec., p. 224. At the same court, *Massabesic*, since called Midletown, was constituted a town.

Though, in itself, of small moment, yet, as the origin of our name has been called in question by respectable authority, and an error in regard to it been spread through standard books, it may be worth while to inquire whence the name? Barber, in his *Historical Collections*, says, that according to tradition, "the name is derived from the one-day's *North-walk*, that limited the northern extent of the purchase from the Indians." Whence he learned the tradition, we know not; but that it is erroneous, if not fabulous, we do know. (1.) The original deeds, in 1640, give the name *Norwalke*, as then designating the river, and there is the same evidence that that was the original Indian name, as that *Saukatuk* and *Rooton* were. (2.) All the settlements along the coast, and in the interior, were first called by their Indian names, and were changed only for specified reasons. Thus, *Quinnepiack* was changed for *New Haven*; *Cupheag* and *Puquannock* for *Stratford*; *Uncowa* for *Fairfield*, and *Rippowams* for *Stamford*. But *Norwalk* was never changed. (3.) But, thirdly, the fancy that *Norwalk* is an abbreviation of *Northwalk*, is dissipated the moment you open the original Colony Records. In those records, from 1636 to 1665, the name is often used, and is spelt in at least eleven different ways. Thus, in the first instance where the word occurs, the orthography is,

(1.) *Nor-waake*, Col. Rec., p. 210, 1650.

(2.) *Nor-wauke*, " 224, 1651.

(3.) *Nor-waack*, " 228, —

(4.) *Nor-wack*, " 242, 1653.

(5.) *Nor-worke*, " " "

(6.)	Nor-wacke,	"	p. 277, 1655.
(7.)	Nor-woake,	"	265.
(8.)	Norr-wake,	"	279.
(9.)	Nor-walke,	"	290, 1656.
(10.)	Norwalk,	"	324, 1658.
(11.)	Norwake,	"	418, 1663.

Thus the record dissipates the fancied tradition. Who would ever have thought of the name being derived from North-walk, had it been uniformly spelt, as at first, in the Colony Records? Not only is there no allusion to such a derivation, but our present orthography, Norwalk, was not used till 1658. Subsequently to that period, there seems to have been more uniformity—the name being written *Nor-walke*, *Nor-wake*, or *Norwalk*—the latter finally prevailed. Here, be it observed, that the ancient orthography was designed to express, as near as possible, the primitive pronunciation; but in process of time, was changed, to accord more nearly with the English form of words. Hence, *Connecticut* would hardly be recognized, either by its orthography or orthoepy, as the name of the "*long river*,"* which our fathers, catching the sound from Indian lips,

* There is no doubt that the original Indian names were, like most Scripture names, significant. Connecticut meant "*long river*." I have spent considerable time in the inquiry, what Norwalk means? but find nothing satisfactory. Roger Williams, in his "*Key, &c.*" says, "that words ending in *ock*, *uog*, *aug*, denote some kind of fish: thus, *Mish-quammaquock*, red-fish, salmon; *Oppomenauhock*, oysters; *Sickisquog*, clams (long); *Poquanuhock*, round clams; *Mcteanuhock*, periwinkle; &c., &c."—See Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. iii., first ser., p. 224.—Hence, my conjecture is, that the name has some relation to the abundant fish, clams, oysters, &c., which were found there.

wrote sometimes, Conaaticut, Cone^tiquot, Quenatticott, Quonehtacut—but which Roger Williams, who professed to hold the key to the Indian language, and to spell every word according to the exact sound, wrote *Quunnihticut*, which, whoever can, may pronounce.* One might imagine that modern phonologists had stolen Williams' key to the Indian language, and applied it to unlock the mysteries of English orthography! The original pronunciation of Norwalk, I conjecture to have been, as if spelt *Nor-wock*, or *wak*, the accent on the first syllable; the second, with a slight sound of the *w*, and *o* short, or *a*, as in *fall*, *war*. It may be, however, that the *w* in the last syllable is silent, and then the pronunciation would be *Norruck*.†

The agreement with Ludlow, 19th June, 1650, was, that the "plantation shall not be taken up under thirty approved families, in a short time to be settled there, and so continue." It is, therefore, safe to assume that the agreement was fulfilled, and that the names which first appear on the original town records, 1654 and '55, were of that number.‡ Here, then, let us pause, and reverently recall the names of the first settlers, and inquire, whence came they, and for what end? As they stand on the record, in the "table of estates, of lands, and accommodations," they are as follows:

* MS. Hist. Coll., vol. iii., first series, p. 206.

† Dr. Hall, whose opinion is entitled to great respect, says, "our aged people retain the ancient (and probably true pronunciation), *Nor-ruck*." But Webster, in his dictionary (pronunciation of names of places), gives it *Nör-wak*, as above.

‡ Only twenty-four names were returned to the General Court, as residents, in 1654.

GEORGE ABBITT,	DANIEL KELLOGGE,
ROBERT BEACHAM,	THOMAS LUPTON,
STEPHEN BECKWITH,	MATTHEW MARVIN, sen.,
JOHN BOWTON, ✓	MATTHEW MARVIN, jr.,
MATTHEW CAMPFIELD,	ISACKE MORE,
NATHANIEL ELI,	JONATHAN MARSH,
THOMAS FITCH,	WIDOW MORGAN,
JOHN GREGGORIE,	RICHARD OLMSTED,
SAMUEL HALES,	NATHANIEL RICHARDS,
THOMAS HALES,	JOHN RUSKOE,
WALTER HAITE,	MATTHIAS SENTION, sen.,
NATHANIEL HAIRES, ✓	MATTHIAS SENTION, jr.,
Rev. THOMAS HANFORD,	MATTHEW SENTION,
RICHARD HOMES,	THOMAS SEAMER, ✓
RALPH KEEILER,	RICHARD WEB.
WALTER KEEILER,	

Besides the above, others appear in the early records, to whom home-lots were assigned, and who, though a few years later, must be reckoned as of the same primitive community, whose names never have been, and we trust, never will be lost from our history. Such were the names of

BENEDICT,	KETCHUM,	PICKETT,
BETTS,	LACKWOOD,	RAYMOND,
BELDING,	NASH,	STEWART,
CHURCH,	PLATT,	TAYLOR.
COMSTOCK,		

Of many of these, we have, by much labor and re-

search, ascertained their Puritan origin, and their arrival in this country. Probably every one of the first thirty was born on the other side of the ocean. Those who were reckoned leading men of the plantation, had come for the sake of religion, from the persecutions in England, and were of kindred spirit with Thomas Hooker, John Warham, George Phillips, and Ephraim Huit, to whose ministry, severally, some of them were attached. I must, however, pass over the detail of particulars.* Arriving at first, most of them, in Massachusetts, thence they emigrated with the Connecticut colony, to one of the river towns, chiefly Hartford, and thence to Norwalk. Some of them were men of considerable substance for that period, as appears from their lists of estates in 1655;† and they were all “approved men,” regardful of “the publique good of the commonwealth of Connecticut.” The government by whose order they went forth to the new plantation in the wilderness, and under whose jurisdiction they were, was formed, in part, “to maintain and preserve the liberty and purity of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the discipline of the churches, according to the truth of the Gospel, as then practised among us.”‡ Mr. Ludlow’s code, established the very year when the agreement to settle was made, declares, that “whereas the most considerable persons in these colonies came into these parts of America, that they might enjoy Christ in his ordinances, without disturbance; and whereas, amongst many other precious mercies, the ordinances have been, and are dispensed amongst

* See Appendix, No. I. † Rec. of Norwalk, p. 46.

‡ Col. Rec., p. 21.

us with much purity and power; therefore, 'the court doth order that the several plantations make provision for the maintenance and encouragement of the ministers who labor therein,'” &c. Hence, at the very beginning of this settlement, they invited “an orthodox and approved minister,” Rev. Thomas Hanford, to labor among them, and made good provision for his support.* Mr. Hanford was in the prime of his manhood. He came from England before his studies in Divinity were finished. He was in Scituate, Massachusetts, 1643, with the Rev. Dr. Charles Chauncy, one of the most distinguished of the Puritan divines, with whom, probably, he completed his studies. He begun his ministry here, in 1652, and was ordained in 1654. We shall ever deeply regret that the records of his long ministry, and with it, the names of the original members of the church, are irrecoverably lost.

By such men and for such ends, was the plantation of this ancient town, the *eleventh* in the order of settlement in the *Connecticut* colony, begun.† And where were the foundations laid? Fortunately, the very spot is identified. Though the old buildings are all gone; the grounds where they stood plowed up, and a new highway, such as our fathers never dreamed of, runs through

* Col. Rec., p. 545, and Nor. Rec., p. 49. His salary was £60, “he to be paid to the value of £30 in pease, wheat and barley, £22 in beefe and pork, at the common current price that it brings when it is due,” &c.

† Trum. Hist. vol. i. p. 451. Five towns belonging to the *New Haven* colony were settled before Norwalk.

it;—yet *there it is*—as it were reconstructed before our eyes. By the aid of that model and magic map,* which only patient investigation and measurement could construct; there, just east of old Fort Point, we behold the very GROUND PLOT; the lots numbered and bounded, with the names of the original owners upon them; there is the old meeting-house, thirty feet in length and eighteen wide, with posts ten feet high; there is Mr. Hanford's house, which Ralph Keeler and Walter Haite agreed to build, and for which Matthew Marvin, jun., “undertook to lay in 2000 good-sufficient shinkles.” Between the meeting-house and Mr. Hanford's is the Old Parade ground, and the ancient country road from Stamford to Fairfield. Just north of the meeting-house, on one side of the road, is the lot of Matthew Marvin, sen., and opposite, of Nathaniel Eli; then the lot which Thomas Fitch bought of Edward Church, and opposite, Richard Olmstead's home-lot. There, too, we can see the dwellings of Nathaniel Richards and Thomas Hales, of Isack More and Nathaniel Campfield. A little southwest of the meeting-house, are two good old neighbors,—just as their descendants were, of the fifth generation—John Bowton and Walter Haite; and near by, is Dea. Thomas Benedict, sen., holding up the hands of his minister. These all are in a compact neighborhood, whose names we have reverently recalled. To-day, we may walk over the sacred ground and view the old landmarks, and put down stakes on the spots where our fathers lived and labored, prayed and jeopardized their lives. Though

* Great credit is due to Rev. Dr. Hall for the *idea* and execution of the map of the ancient settlement of Norwalk. See Ancient Records.

the old men and the mothers are not now there; yet there is the old burying-ground, where their remains sleep, and we may visit and salute them there.*

If now we inquire why our fathers pitched upon this location in preference to any other, we do not find an answer in any written record. Perhaps the point where the old Indian fort stood and where there was a favorable crossing-place, afforded a better defense, as well as view of the harbor, than any other spot. But the arrangement of home-lots in that compact form was for prudential reasons and according to order. It was partly for the conveniency of "watch and ward," to guard against sudden attacks from Indian enemies; and also for accommodation in the public worship of God. One of the New England laws was, that "wheresoever the lands of any man's inheritance shall fall, yet no man shall set his dwelling-house above the distance of half a mile, or a mile at the furthest, from the meeting of the congregation, where the church doth usually assemble for the worship of God."†

In assigning the home-lots, which averaged about four acres each, respect was evidently paid to age, character, rank and property. The leading men, such as Matthew Marvin, sen., and Nathaniel Eli, Thomas Fitch, and Richard Olmstead, were placed nearest to the meeting-house. In the division and allotment of lands which at first were owned in common by the settlers, there was an estab-

* The tomb-stones of the old settlers have no inscriptions by which they can be recognized.

† Hist. Coll. Mass., 1st Series, vol. v. p. 178.

lished general rule—viz., “That in dividing of lands to the several persons in each town, as regard is to be had partly to the number of persons in a family—to the more, assigning the greater allotment, to the fewer, the less—and partly by the number of beasts by the which a man is fit to occupy the land assigned to him and subdue it; eminent respect, in this case, may be given to men of eminent quality and descent, in assigning unto them more large and honorable accommodations, in regard of their greater disbursements to public charges.”* On the principle, probably of respect for office, as well as for convenience, Mr. Hanford’s house was near the center, and he was allowed a right of £300 in the commonage, which was next to that of Thomas Fitch, the richest man in the plantation. In 1672, the rule was fully adopted of allowing each of the children to be rated at five pounds and added to the father’s estate—by which, fortunately, *some poor men became quite thrifty*. As the undivided common lands were laid off, from time to time, the division and assignment were in proportion to the estates; thus at one time, “six acres,” at another, “three,” at another, “twenty,” were laid off “to the hundred pound.” The choice of lots was drawn. To favor the young men as they came of age, they were put into the rate at £50, and allowed “a right in the commonage” in that proportion.†

In tracing the onward progress of the settlement to the close of the first century, I shall keep in view and endeavor briefly to illustrate:

* Abstract of Laws of New England, 1641. Mass. Hist. Coll.

† See Rec. of Norwalk.

I. THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY OUR FATHERS FOR SECURITY AND DEFENSE.

II. THE ATTENTION PAID TO THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN.

III. CERTAIN CUSTOMS AND USAGES WHICH BELONGED "TO THE TIMES."

IV. AND THEIR GROWTH AND ENLARGEMENT.

I. As it respects *the security and defense of their persons and estates*, it must constantly be borne in mind, that the entire region was a wilderness, inhabited by savage beasts and more savage men; consequently the measures adopted for self-protection were suited to the exigency of their condition. For a considerable period, their boundaries were undetermined, and hence conflicts arose from various quarters. The Dutch at New York claimed the right of soil from Delaware Bay to the mouth of the Connecticut river, and at this very time were on the point of making war with the Connecticut and New Haven colonists. The limits and jurisdiction of these two colonies were unsettled.* Stamford was under the New Haven jurisdiction; Fairfield and Norwalk under that of Connecticut. To aggravate their troubles, the bounds between Stamford and Norwalk on the one side, and Fairfield and Norwalk on the other, were in dispute. Hence, so early as May, 1653, the General Court of Connecticut was obliged to interpose; "Whereas ther is a difference betwixt Norwanke and Fairfield, each towne is appointed to send two men to viewe the place and de-

* New Haven was first settled in 1638, as a colony entirely distinct from Connecticut; and so remained till 1665, when the two were united.

bate betwixt themselves; and if they cannot agree, they are to make choyce of two inhabitants of Stratford to view the said difference with them and to make returne to the Courte how they find it, that so there may be an issue of the same—they paying the sayd Stratford men for their time.”* Again in 1664, the town authorized their deputies to the General Court, to issue the difference if possible; and “Thomas Fitch is voted to be assisting in the business.”† By this time, Stamford and Norwalk were in collision about their limits along “Five Mile River,”—and as our goodly town always sought the things which make for peace—while they maintained their own rights—they “agreed and voted, Aug. 26, 1666, that such men of our inhabitants as do goe to cutt hay on the other side five-mile river, the towne will stand by them in the action to defend them, and to beare an equal proportion of the damage they shall sustaine upon that account; and if they shall be afronted by Stamford men, the towne will take as speedy a course as they can to prosecute them by law, to recover their just rights touching the lands in controversy; and also they have chosen and deputed Mr. Thomas Fitch to goe with the sayd men when they go to cutt or fetch away, to make answer for and in behalfe of the towne, and the rest be silent.” Again in 1670, “Mr. Fitch, Lieut. Olmsted and Daniel Kellogg are chosen a committee to goe to Stamford to treat with the inhabitants there, to se if

* “Will. Berdsly and Phillip Groues are appointed by the Court to that service.”—Col. Rec., p. 242.

† Rec. Nor., p. 50. Col. Rec., pp. 414–418. The difficulty was not settled till 1686.

they and we can come to a loving and neighborly issue and agreement about the division of bounds betwixt them and us.”*

While these differences were pending there was danger from other sources. The Indians in and about Norwalk were becoming troublesome; so that the General Court in 1660, appointed a Committee “to hear and determine ye difference twixt Norwalk inhabitants and ye Indians there.” Serjeant Olmsted, previous to this, was authorized “to exercise the soldiers at Norworke and to viewe the armes and to make returns to the Court of the defects.” With Thomas Fitch, he was also “appointed to take care and look after the Indians.” From the adjoining towns of Stratford, Fairfield and Norwalk a small troop of horse was allowed to be gathered; of which seven were to be from Stratford, seven from Fairfield, and four from Norwalk. About the same time, the Pequannocke Indians about Gold Hill (in Bridgeport) were in trouble with the inhabitants; and Mr. Campfield, Mr. Fitch, Richard Olmstead and Nathaniel Fly were appointed by the General Court “to bound out the lands at Gold Hill, about 80 acres, beginning at ye foot of ye hill where the wigwams stood, and soe to run upwards on the hill”—that “according unto the desire of the Indians they may quietly possess and enjoy from henceforth and for future, that parcel of land called Gold Hill.”†

* Rec. Nor., pp. 52, 58.

† See Col. Rec., pp. 335-6. The said “Gold Hill,” now covered with elegant dwellings, and cultivated as a paradise, is the most beautiful part of the city of Bridgeport.

The apprehensions and dangers from the Indians, both in their own neighborhood and abroad, instead of diminishing with the progress of the settlement, increased and became fearfully alarming, from 1670 till 1676. A "watch and ward" was ordered by the General Court, in every town, which the constables were to see faithfully attended: "when danger was discovered by the approach of an enemy or by fire, notice was to be given by firing their guns and crying, Fire, Fire! or Arm, Arm!" The watch was to be set "in the evening by the shutting in of daylight, and not to leave before the break of day."* Meeting-houses were converted into forts, to which the people went armed on the Sabbath, and a guard was set in the houses of worship. In 1675, the danger was universal. Indians lurked in the woods, behind fences, crept into barns and sheds; waylaid the inhabitants in every footpath, and shot them down in the fields at work. All along the coast and in the interior, there was anxiety and alarm, commotion, fire and blood! In the Narraganset country, Philip, the brave and desperate Indian chief, with such of the Pequots and other Indians as he could rally around him, was meditating and preparing, as was believed, for a general and indiscriminate destruction of the several plantations throughout the colonies. Hence prompt and efficient measures were taken to prevent the fearful catastrophe. Massachusetts, Plymouth and Connecticut combined their military force: to which each town contributed its proportion. Norwalk furnished its quota of men, who, under the brave Capt. Seeley, of Stratford, took part in the

* Col. Rec., p. 404. Rec. Nor., p. 58.

"direful swamp fight" 19th Dec., 1675. This is not the occasion to enter into particulars of that "direful fight," which has scarcely a parallel in the annals of either ancient or modern warfare. Sufficient to say, of the Connecticut troops, "In that signal service, as we had our full number in proportion with the other confederates, so all say, that they did their full proportion of service. Three noble captains, Seeley, courageous Marshall and bold Gallup, died in the bed of honor, and valiant Mason had his death's wound. There died many brave officers and sentinels whose memory is blessed and whose death redeemed our lives."* In this fight, the soldiers from Norwalk were John Roach, Daniel Benedict, Samuel Keeler, Jonathan Stevenson; and in other Indian wars about the same time, Thomas Gregory, Thomas Hyatt, Joseph Platt, Jonathan Abbot, John Crampton, James Jupp and John Belding. At a town meeting, 12th Jan., 1676, "the towne in consideration of the good service that the soldiers sent out of the towne ingaged and performed by them, and out of respect and thankfulness to the sayd soldiers, doe with one consent and freely, give and grant, to so many as were in the direful swamp fight, twelve acors of land; and eight acors of land, to so many as were in the next considerable service."†

But in contemplating the troubles and perils of our fathers from the Indians, we must not entirely overlook

* For a full and more accurate account of this dreadful fight, see Hubbard's Narrative of troubles with the Indians from 1607 to 1677; and a history of Indian wars by Increase Mather; also Trumb. Hist. Conn. vol. i., chap. 14, p. 341, *note*.

† Rec. Nor., p. 63.

dangers and inconveniences of less moment. *Wolfe-pitts* were very essential; and it was agreed, and voted, 16th Sept., 1659, "that it shall be lawful for any person or persons to make any wolfe-pitt or pitts in convenient places:—and for every wolfe taken and killed, 10s. shall be allowed, and paid by the towne. For the safety of the cattle, a pound thirty feet square must be built for the gathering of them in, at night. In the spring, summer and fall, the dry herd must be pastured together on the other side of Norwalk river, and 'ther kept by the owners of the cattle; every man keeping according to his proportion of cattle ther herded.*' At the same time, the milch cows must be drove, and 'fetched out of the neck,' every day in the summer, and Steven Beckwith, or some other man hired, for the purpose, and 'give warning by sounding a horne about twelve of the clock, that he that is to accompany him may repaier to him,' and that the fences may be in due order, "the townsmen from yere to yere, at or before the 10th of March, must give notis to all the inhabitants, the night before; and the drum be beaten in the morning," as a sufficient warning. As a remuneration for Steven Beckwith for driving the milch herd, it was voted and agreed, March 16, 1668, that "he is to have 12s. for his paynes, and half a pound of butter for every cow, as part of his pay, and the rest in wheat, pease, Indian corn, at 4s. 6d., 3s. 6d., and 8 groats per bushel." Modern "*communitists*" might here take a lesson. The true idea of a community associated for a common object and interest, is for each one to have his own property, to

* Rec. of Norwalk, 1655.

receive pay for his labor, and to bear his just proportion of all expenses, to accomplish common ends.

II. But we must glance, next, at the care of the fathers, *for the instruction and education of their children*. It must be obvious, that during the first few years of the settlement, and amidst so many trials and dangers, a school, where all the children should be instructed, was inexpedient, if not impracticable. The laws of the colony did not require it; but, “forasmuch as the good education of children is of singular behoofe and benefit to any commonwealth, and whereas, many parents and masters are too indulgent and negligent of their duty in that kinde: It is therefore ordered, by the courte and authority thereof, that the selectmen of every towne in the severall precincts and quarters where they dwell, shall have a vigilant eye over their brethren and neighbors, to see, first, that none of them shall suffer so much Barbarisme in any of their families as not to indeavor to teach by themselves or others their children and apprentices, so much Learning as may inable them perfectly to read the English tounge, and knowledge of the Capitall Lawes, upon penalty of twenty shillings for each neglect therein.” Masters of families were also required, “once a week, to catechise their children in the grounds and principles of religion,” and “to breed, and bring them up in some honest, lawful calling.” As soon, however, as a township had increased to the number of fifty householders, the law required, that then, forthwith, they should “appoint one within their towne, to teach all such children as shall resort to him, to write and read, whose

wages shall be paid, either by the parents or masters of such children, or by the inhabitants in general, by way of supply, as the major part of those who order the prudentials of the towne, shall appoint.* According to this law, as the town increased, in 1678, the town "voted, and agreed to hier a schoolmaster to teach all the childring in the towne to lerne to rede and write, and that Mr. Cornish shall be hierd for that cervice, and the townsmen are to hier him upon as reasonable terms as they can." Next, 1686, "agreed to hier a schoolmaster for a quarter of a yeere, and allow him wages at the rate of thirty pounds a year, which is to be paid by the inhabitants, according to their lists of estate." The selectmen were also to "obtain a house for that use, and to fit it with conveniences for schooling." Then, 1692, "Thomas Hanford, jun., was chosen to the work and employment of a school-master." And the first school-house appears to have been built in 1699—"twenty feet in length, eighteen wide, and six feet between joyns." Its exact location is uncertain. Such was the small beginning of that admirable system of common schools, which is now brought to so great perfection, and which renders New England, and Connecticut in-partiicular, the glory of all lands.

III. I may now be permitted to touch on certain customs and usages which belonged "to the times" of our fathers, and which illustrate the simplicity of their manners, and

* Mr. Ludlow's Code, Col. Rec., pp. 520, 554. "After a town has increased to one hundred families, it shall support a grammar school, to instruct youth so far as they may be fitted for the university."

the strictness of their discipline. The first meeting-house was a rudely constructed, and but partially finished building. The seats were simply benches, without backs for support. I should infer that there was but one window in it; for, in 1660, the "town agreed with Mr. Fitch, and Goodman Richards, and John Rusco, to claboard the meeting-house with inside so hy as *the window*; to find the bords, and to have 3*l.* 6*s.* for the doing of itt."* In want of a bell, they beat the drum for meetings, when all occasions required; and for this service, Walter Haite, 1665, was to have 10*s.* for a year; and 1668, Thomas Bennedict undertook to have the meeting-house swept for the ensuing year, for 20*s.*; and "Thomas Lupton was chosen to look after the young people in the meeting-house, on the Lord's day, and to doe his best indevor to keep them from playing, and unisvill behaviour in time of public worship."† After the erection of the second meeting-house, 1680, to which "the desk, seats, and planks of the old meeting-house" were removed, special care was taken about the seating; for not only in the laying out of home-lots, and the division of lands, as before remarked, was the principle of reverence for age, for office and wealth, respected; but also in the seats and seating of meeting-houses. As a general rule, the men sat on one side of the house, and the women on the other. Particular seats were assigned as seats for the authority, and for the more aged, respected or wealthy in the congregation. The "honorable women" followed, in this respect, the rank of their hus-

* Rec. of Norwalk, p. 50.

† Rec. of Norwalk, p. 52, 53.

bands.* Accordingly, the town, 1686, "voted, and agreed, that the seating of the meeting-house shall be for the generallyty to be seated according to the lists of estates by the which men pay'd in the defraying the charges about the building, and finishing the said house; that the pew under the pulpitt be sequestered for such as are orderly constituted to officiate as deacons; that John Gregory, sen., and Mr. Fitch, and Thomas Betts, sen., be seated in the round seat:" and, December 28, 1686, "the towne did vote Mr. Thomas Fitch for to be seated in the meeting-house in the upper great round seat, as he is the King's Commissioner." Great prudence, however, was necessary, in this arrangement, lest offense should be given: hence, the town agreed, that in the seating, 1705, "no person shall be degraded, or brought lower than they are now seated." In 1702, John Gregory, sen., and Matthew Marvin, sen., had liberty to sitt in the Deacon's seat, before the pulpitt, for the benefitt of hearing the word preached." How long this usage continued, we know not; but as late as 1754, when our goodly town was honored with a governor—one of her own sons—the organ of reverence was largely developed. "At a meeting of the Prime Ancient Society, in Norwalk, December 25, 1754, the Society, by vote, manifest their willingness that his Honor, the Governor, should choose any place in ye meeting-house, to erect a pew for himself and family. Ye Society send three men to treat with his Honor in the affair." Next year, the Society desire their Committee "to do what they shall think

* See this custom admirably illustrated in Dr. Bacon's *Historical Discourses at New Haven*, 1838. Appendix, p. 310.

proper to adorn the pew where the Governor now sits, in lieu of building a pew."*

But, unfortunately, while so much care was taken in seating the fathers and mothers, the children seemed to be left to themselves, to find seats where best they could; and hence, we are not surprised, that corresponding with the duty which Thomas Lupton had to perform in the old meeting-house, 1668, Thomas Barnum was appointed, 1681, to oversee, and to keep good decorum amongst the youth in times of exercise on the Sabbath, and other publique meetings; and the towne doe empower him, if he see any disorderly, for to keep a small stick to correct such with, only, he is desired to doe it with clemency; and if any are incorridgable in such disorder, he is to present them, either to their parents or masters, and if they do not reclaine them, then, to present such to authority." What would be the fate of a young culprit who should be given into the hands of the authority, under such circumstances, we can imagine; for, according to Mr. Ludlow's code, he might be put into the house of correction, subject to "hard labor, and severe punishment; or, if of sixteen years of age, and over, he might fall under the *death* penalty of the Mosaic code.†"

4. We must now briefly notice *the growth and improvement of the settlement*. Before the close of the first half century, the minister, Rev. Thomas Hanford, grown old in the service of his Master, was dead. More than

* Records of Norwalk, p. 158.

† Col. Rec., p. 515, Capital Laws.

half of the original settlers slept with him in the grave.* But by this time, the "wilderness," in a good degree, had become a fruitful field. Though neither the wolves nor the Indians had entirely disappeared; yet the former were scarce, and the latter peaceable and friendly. They had lands sequestered to them which they cultivated; fished in the harbor and about the islands, and gathered clams and oysters from the shores and creeks.

The compact settlement of log-houses about Old Fort Point was expanded in every direction—up the river towards the bridge and mills,—over the river, at Old Well,—towards Saugatuck, Wilton and New Canaan. Those beautiful islands which lie along the coast, were formally claimed and taken possession of by the town in 1702. A new burying-ground was laid out "over the river," in 1708.† Instead of the drum to call people to public worship, a bell was procured in 1709, and Samuel Keeler, jun., allowed twenty acres of land in one place, and twenty-six more, "to take up in the woods," upon condition that he would erect a Belfree upon the top of the meeting-house and hang the bell there; also frame, in the top of the turret, a good sufficient cedar-stump to fix a weather-cock on, if the town see cause, or a pinnacle. As a still greater advance, in 1713, the town "grants Zerubbabel Hoyt, 20s. for his ringing the bell at 9 o'clock at night, for a year"—a custom, which as a signal to be at home, at that hour, and to retire to rest, has

* In 1794, the names of fourteen original settlers (as I^o suppose), is "on the list of voters at town meetings." Rec. Nor., p. 86.

† The first burials were made in the south-east corner of the lot, and may still be seen. The grave-stones bear no inscription.

contributed in no small degree, as in other New England villages, to order and regularity.

Relieved from apprehensions of immediate danger from Indians or other enemies, the population gradually spread out from the old settlement far into the country. At Ridgefield, which had been purchased by inhabitants of Norwalk in 1708, of Catoonak, an Indian sachem, a settlement was begun,* and in 1713, Capt. Joseph Platt, Capt. John Raymond, and Ensign James Stewart were appointed a Committee to lay out a highway thither. At the same time Jonathan Wood, sen., was freed by the town "from paying any rate to the minister in Norwalk, for future, provided said Wood attends the meeting in Ridgfield on the sabbath,—and so long as he continues so to do." Here we cannot but be gratified with the liberal views and large-hearted policy which governed our fathers in respect of new societies and parishes which sprung out of them. It has been common to accuse the old Puritans and their immediate descendants of bigotry and exclusiveness, and even of persecution in matters of religion. But in respect, at least, of the prime inhabitants of Norwalk, facts speak a different language. They adopted measures, promotive of the interests of other societies, though adverse to their own. Hence, in 1725, "the town by a major vote signified their willingness that the inhabitants of Kent, Belden's Hill, and so upwards, become a parish by themselves." Next year the town appropriated ten acres of land "for the use of the Presbyterian or Congregational ministry" among the people of the said parish, to which were afterwards added some

* Trum. Hist., vol. i., p. 460. Rec. Nor., pp. 101-6.

eighteen acres more. About the same time, 1726, the town grants to the inhabitants of Saugatuck "liberty to improve some meet person or minister of the Gospel to preach among them." Next in order came New Canaan, 1732, where a meeting-house had already been erected, and the town grants to the inhabitants of that parish "all the common land where their meeting-house standeth, and thirty rods from the meeting-house, that is common and highway there, so long as they shall support a meeting-house in said place." A similar favor was granted in 1729 to the inhabitants settled in Middlesex (now Darien). But still more in illustration of their liberal and generous policy; in the very height of their own troubles with the Rev. Stephen Buckingham, a new society arose among themselves, composed of "Professors of the Church of England." And the proprietors of the town, by a major vote, 1734, granted unto said professors land for them "to build a church upon, for the worship of God in that way; and for a burying-yard; to be for its use forever." They also discharged persons who paid to the support of the minister of the Church of England, from obligation to pay to the Prime Society. Furthermore, upon application by Ralph Isaacs and Samuel Cluckston, church-wardens, in behalf of the Professors of the Church of England, the proprietors "being minded," they say, "to oblige said Professors, do grant five acres of land, at a place called Strawberry Hill, for the support of a missionary settled according to the canons of the said Church of England, from time to time, forever."*

* See Rec. of Norwalk, pp. 122-124, 156-161.

While these changes were in progress, there was also a change and a serious difficulty, arising from the "dissatisfaction" of the town and the Church, "with the conversation of the Reverend Mr. Stephen Buckingham," the successor of Mr. Hanford; the cause, progress and issue of which are stated, fully, in the ancient published records, and therefore the detail need not now detain us. His dismissal after a ministry of about thirty years, was followed by the organization of the "*Prime Ancient Society of Norwalk*," in Feb. 1727, and the settlement soon after of the Rev. Moses Dickinson, whose ministry was long, peaceful and useful. A new meeting-house still further north, or "up town," was built, 1723, respecting which "the town by a major vote resolves, that no town meetings shall be warned to convene at the new meeting-house, nor attended and held within the said house; nor that any act or acts of the town shall ever be accounted of any value that shall be passed within the walls thereof."* Hence arose the necessity of a Town House for the transaction of public business; which was first built 1727, as an addition to the "upper school house;" rebuilt near where the present Town House stands, 1746; and the third erected on the same spot, 1779.†

At the close of the first century of the settlement, vast,

* Rec. Nor. For an account of the successive meeting-houses and ministers in Norwalk, see "Address of Rev. Edwin Hall, D.D., at the laying of the corner-stone of the New Congregational Church, in *Norwalk Gazette*, 26th July, 1848.

† Rec. of Norwalk, pp. 120, 125, 137.

beneficial and cheering were the changes in its condition. The log-houses of the first settlers had been succeeded by comfortable framed houses, generally one story and a half or two stories in front, with back roofs running slanting and low. Some were of gambrel-roofs. All were furnished with huge fire-places—built of stone—which admitted large back-logs of four or six feet in length; and gave room for a tribe of children to sit on benches in each corner, to sweat and burn; while the good old folks roasted in front. The habits of the people were for the most part temperate and frugal; wheat, rye, Indian corn, beans and pease, were the principal products of the field; while, to many families no inconsiderable portion of their daily food, were fish, oysters, clams, scallops, and other shell-fish, which always abounded, and which were free to those who would take them. The amusements of the young, so far as we can learn from tradition, were mostly of the athletic kind, simple and rude; such as wrestling, running, pitching the quoit, playing at ball; and in the fall and winter evenings, parties for husking corn, and dancing.* The “common lands,” where originally the “herd” was pastured, were, by this time, mostly taken up or laid off “to the proper inhabitants of the town;” and the “milch herd” was “driven and fetched” each day from the fields, by their proper owners.

From 1744 to 1763, the colonies were engaged most of the time in wars with the French and Indians; in which the inhabitants of Norwalk shared, in some respects, even more than their part of the expense, and sacrifice,

* Some of these amusements were common, within the recollection of the writer.

and men. Thomas Fitch, being governor of the colony, from 1754 to 1766, took a prominent part in the vigorous prosecution of these wars; and was distinguished for his patriotic services and sacrifices. In 1755, he was one of the Council of War, at New York, with his Excellency Gen. Shirley, commander-in-chief of his Majesty's forces in North America, Sir Charles Hardy, governor of New York, and others. In 1756, Connecticut raised 2,500 men for the expedition against Niagara and Crown Point, which was double the number which her proportion with the other colonies required.* In 1757, 350 of the regular army were posted in this town for winter quarters—to defray the expenses of which, the town by vote granted a rate of one penny upon a pound of all the rateable estate, and agreed to take care of the soldiers. A guard-house and hospital were also provided at the town's expense.† During the periods of the French and Indian wars, the sons of Norwalk were in the expedition to Cape Breton; at the capture of Louisburg; they fought at Montmorency and Quebec; at Crown Point and Ticonderoga.

I shall be excused, if passing over many interesting incidents, I hasten to the era in our history which transcends in tragic interest every other. A complete history of the burning of the town of Norwalk in July, 1779, has never yet been written. The distresses of that event to our fathers, and the interest which traditionary recitals of it have often awakened in our bosoms, render it proper that on this occasion, we give it prominence;

* Trum. Hist., vol. ii., p. 373.

† Rec. of Norwalk, p. 125.

and that, as far as possible, we place the facts in the order and light of authentic history.

The information, then, which I design to embody in one connected narrative, is derived from tradition, from the testimony of a few living aged witnesses, from published historical fragments, and from unpublished, but authentic documents.

Before the revolutionary conflict actually began, but, as if in anticipation of it, the spirit and principles which animated the great mass of American citizens during that period, were strongly developed in the inhabitants of this town. They felt, and resented, the oppressions and aggressions of the mother country. In December, 1774, they met, and passed resolves approving of the proceedings of the Continental Congress, in sympathy with the inhabitants of Boston for their sufferings under what was called the Boston Port Bill. A Committee was appointed, Feb. 6th, 1775, "to receive any donations that may be brought in for the relief of the poor inhabitants of the town of Boston." At the declaration of independence, 4th July, 1776, the patriotic fires in the hearts of our fathers were fully kindled; committees of inspection were appointed; gunpowder was carefully husbanded; a magazine to keep the warlike stores belonging to the town, ordered to be erected "on the hill between Mr. Leaming's house and Ebenezer Lockwood's;" watches were set at different points; and on application to the General Assembly of the State, 28th Nov., 1776, by Thaddeus Betts, Esq., as agent of the town, "six cannon, viz., two four-pounders, and four three-pounders, with one

hundred round shot to suit them, and grape-shot in proportion," were procured from the Salisbury furnace.*

The *location* of the town at this time, in relation to the British, demands notice.

In Oct., 1777, a memorial, signed by seventy-one of the inhabitants,† was presented to the General Assembly, setting forth "that the principal place of rendezvous for the enemy's shipping that cruise in the Sound, is in Huntington Bay, on Long Island shore, where they have, ever since the enemy took possession of New York and Long Island, been almost constantly stationed, for the purpose of cruising in the Sound, and for annoying, distressing, and plundering the inhabitants that live near the shores in the western towns in the State; that the shores easterly and westerly in said Norwalk, are so extensive, and there are so many points and necks of land that put out into the Sound, that it is impossible for this town to furnish a sufficient number of men to guard every part thereof from the ravages of the enemy; that Huntington Bay is not more than eight or nine miles from the islands' points and shores in said Norwalk, and that the enemy frequently, just at night, cross the Sound, and come upon us, and take away our flocks, and plunder us, notwithstanding the utmost care to prevent it; that in some instances they have taken off part of our guards; and they very often, of late, come hovering about our shores, and anchor about our islands, with small armed sloops; and boats come within our harbor, and in two instances, have come in the night, up our har-

* Rec. of Nor., p. 131; and Hinman's History of the War, p. 450.

† Appendix, No. ii.

bors, and fired upon our houses, which causes frequent alarms, and creates great uneasiness among the women and children, who expect to be taken prisoners, or be robbed, plundered, and deprived of their whole subsistence and comforts of life; and as we have no armed force on the water, we have it not in our power to prevent the enemy's small boats and sloops coming into our harbors and distressing us." On such grounds, the memorialists pray, that an armed sloop "of about six or eight guns, may be sent to cruise in the Sound," for their protection.*

Another noticeable circumstance in the condition of Norwalk, was, that among the inhabitants was a considerable number of *tories*—influenced the more strongly, no doubt, by Rev. Mr. Leaming, who, in the language of an old inhabitant, was "as big a tory as could be on earth," and who "continued to pray for the king as long as he dared to." Our charity to-day shall throw a mantle over the names of those tories; we might possibly frame an apology for them; but then, and to the patriots of the revolution, their offense was unpardonable. They kept up frequent intercourse with the enemy on Long Island; passed and repassed in boats; served as guides to marauding and plundering parties, and burned with even more bitter hatred to their countrymen, than the British themselves.

On the 25th of April, a fleet of twenty-six of the enemy's ships appeared off Norwalk Islands, conveying two brigades of upwards of two thousand men, for an attack upon Danbury, where the military stores were deposited.

* Hinman's Hist. Appendix, p. 597.

Guided by tories, they effected a landing at Compo, in Saugatuck, where they were met by a brave band of Norwalk and Stamford militia, the former under command of Captain Ozias Marvin, who watched their movements, hung upon their rear, harassed their march, and afterwards took part in the fight at Ridgefield.*

The exposed condition of the town rendered it necessary, not only that their own militia should be retained for their defense, but that an additional guard should be stationed here. Hence, July 15th, 1777, the Colonel of the first regiment at New Haven was ordered to send forthwith, the "fullest company under his command, to the town of Norwalk, to be posted there as guards for the defense of that part of the coast."

The crisis which the inhabitants with so much reason had feared, now approached. In the summer of 1779, the enemy, at Long Island, prepared for an expedition against the southern coast of Connecticut. On the 4th of July, 1779, Gen. Tryon, with an army of 2600 men, aided by Gen. Garth, and a fleet of forty armed vessels, under command of Sir George Collier, sailed for New Haven, and early on the morning of the fifth, appeared before the city, which they soon pillaged, and partly burnt. On the 7th, the same army was landed at Fairfield, and laid that beautiful town in ashes. Amid the smoking ruins, the venerable pastor of the Congregational church, who had witnessed the conflagration, and

* Captain Marvin supplied his soldiers with refreshments, for which he was allowed by the General Assembly £28 1s. 4d. lawful money, for forty-five gallons of rum, sixty pounds of dried beef, eight pounds of sugar, and twenty-four case bottles."—*Hinman's Hist.*, p. 297.

whose house of worship, with other buildings, was burnt, wrote in the church records, for future generations to read, the following scriptural elegy and song:

"Our holy and our beautiful house,
"Where our fathers praised thee, is
"Burnt up with fire; and all our
"Pleasant things are laid waste.
"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken
"Away: blessed be the name of the Lord.
"All things work together for good to them
"That love God—to them who are the
"Called according to his purpose. Alleluia.
"The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.—Amen."

An immediate attack was expected to follow, on Norwalk. The alarm spread. Women and children, with cattle, and such goods as could be removed, were hurried away to "the Rocks," to Wilton, to Canaan, or to whatever spot, where safety might be expected. The militia and guards rallied; but, contrary to expectation, and for reasons unknown, the enemy's vessels sailed for Long Island; and a respite of a few days was granted.

For the fate of Norwalk, a deep interest was now felt throughout the State. Governor Trumbull, one of the noblest patriots of the Revolution—the friend and confidant of Washington—was vigilant, and on the alert, to avert, if possible, the impending doom. Washington himself, now in the highland fastnesses of the North River, was not unmindful of the operations of the enemy, nor slow to afford such aid, as the greater good of the whole country permitted. He dispatched Gen. Parsons*

* Gen. Samuel H. Parsons was son of Rev. Jonathan Parsons, of Lyme, Ct., a graduate of Harvard University, 1756.

to the scene of action, with a view of giving confidence to the militia, and guiding their movements.* On the 8th of July, Gov. Trumbull wrote by express to Gen. Wolcott, of Litchfield, to have him muster his brigade, and hasten to the coast, to repel the enemy. On the 10th, a letter from Andrew Adams, of the old Continental Congress, dated Litchfield, informs Gov. Trumbull that Gen. Wolcott had gone forward, and that orders for a draft on the militia had been made, and they were nearly ready to march. He also says: "I am informed that the enemy lie off against, and near to Norwalk, and that a strong force has marched from King's-Bridge by land, with orders to burn and to destroy." On the 11th, the Governor addressed a letter to Brigadier-General Glover, of the Continental troops at New London, requesting him to go forward to Norwalk, to assist the general officers in their operations against the enemy. The letter was received by express, at 11 o'clock at night; and Gen. Glover, in his answer at 8, next morning, says, "*that his brigade would be on their march at 9 o'clock.*" He, himself, hastened forward, agreeably to the Governor's request, calling by the way on Gen. Ward, at Guilford, to accompany him, and bearing orders that his brigade, under the command of Col. William Shepard, should follow "with all possible dispatch." It was a noble, spontaneous, patriotic effort to save our town from devastation and conflagration! But it was too late: before Gov. Trumbull's letter was received by Gen. Glover, on the fatal eleventh, the town was reduced to ashes!

We will not, however, in our relation, hurry either so

* Hinman's History, p. 142.

fast as our brave officers and soldiers did, to come to our defense, or as the British did in their retreat. On Saturday afternoon, of the 10th, the British fleet from Long Island, of twenty-six sail, appeared in our harbor, with a land force of about two thousand five hundred men, under command of the same generals, Tryon and Garth. They effected a landing on both sides of the river; on the East, at Fitch's Point; on the West, at Old Well. At the latter point, the enemy was fired upon by a small company of volunteers (of whom the late Nathaniel Raymond was one), who had gathered on the hill near John Raymond's, where Capt. Daniel K. Nash now lives. The fire of the volunteers was returned, and as the former retreated, a party of the enemy chased them over the hill, dragging a field-piece after them, as far as Round-Hill. Night set in, and the inhabitants of the town, wakeful, anxious, with a few companies of militia, and about one hundred and fifty continental troops, to oppose two thousand five hundred British veterans, awaited the issue! As the morning of the Sabbath dawned, the British troops were seen concentrating from both sides of the harbor, at Grummon's-Hill. That beautiful eminence, overlooking the whole town, was Gen. Tryon's head-quarters. As the sun cast his early rays on its summit, it was seen "all red" with British soldiers! Tryon sat there, with chairs and a table, writing his orders. At six o'clock in the morning, the flames began to ascend: the house standing where George Day now lives is said to have been the first burnt; and as the flames spread, kindled by incendiary soldiers, at every accessible point, the roar of cannon, and fire of

muskets, in strange contrast with the usual stillness of the Sabbath, deepened the terrors of the scene. The militia and continental troops, headed by Generals Parsons and Wolcott, were on the hill near "the Rocks," whence they fired on the enemy at Grummon's-Hill. To drive the former from their position, Tryon dispatched a large body of troops, who were met by our soldiers in France-street, and greeted there with so warm a reception, that their progress was checked, and ere noon they were on the retreat to their vessels in the harbor, and at two o'clock, embarked.

Of the extent of the conflagration, and the loss to the inhabitants, we have the following statement from Gen. Parsons to Gov. Trumbull, under date of 17th July, 1779, at Stamford:

"The depredation of the enemy upon the sea-coast of the State, Gen. Wolcott has, doubtless, particularly informed you of. *The destruction of Norwalk is what I have been a witness to.* One hundred and thirty-two dwelling-houses,* meeting-house and church included, eighty-seven barns, twenty-two store-houses, seventeen shops, four mills, and five vessels, were burnt, with the wheat, hay, &c., which had been gathered in."

* Gen. Parsons puts the number of dwelling-houses higher than do other accounts. Holmes, in his *American Annals*, says, "Eighty dwelling-houses, two churches, eighty-seven barns, seventeen shops, four mills, and five vessels." I am inclined to think that "eighty" is the correct number. At Fairfield, the British burnt eighty-five dwelling-houses, two churches, a court-house, fifty-five barns, fifteen stores, and fifteen shops." See a full account of the burning of Fairfield, in Mass. Hist. Coll., vol. iii., p. 103, *first series*; also Hlinman's *History of the War*, pp. 616-623.

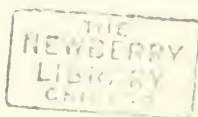
"The wretches," he continues, "went off with so much precipitation, as left them no opportunity of committing the outrages upon the persons of the inhabitants, which in other places they have been guilty of. Enough appeared, however, to demonstrate the continuance of their hellish temper. Several of our soldiers, who appear to have been first wounded, were found with their skulls blown off by musket discharges into them, after they were wounded."*

The loss on both sides seems to have been inconsiderable. One "tall British soldier" was killed near John Raymond's; another was shot by Seth Abbott. Of our own men, Jacob Nash was killed at the fight in France-street; there also, John Waters, a continental soldier, fell into the enemy's hands, wounded; and as Capt. Stephen Betts testified, 26th July, 1779, "after he had delivered up his arms and begged for his life, the enemy assaulted him with their bayonets, with which they stabbed him in sundry places, and then shot at him,—though finally he escaped with his life." But John Rich, another continental soldier, was first wounded, and afterwards was found dead and "the top of his skull torn off, supposed to be blown off by a musket to dispatch him."†

The wanton excesses, barbarities, and licentious conduct of the British soldiers at New Haven and Fairfield, and in some degree at Norwalk,—the infamous

* For the above particulars, I am indebted to MS. papers in Trumbull's collection, now in the Massachusetts Historical Society, furnished me by the politeness of Mellen Chamberlain, Esq., of Boston.

† Hinman's Hist., pp. 625-6.



mockery of Gen. Tryon in issuing a proclamation of pardon to the inhabitants, with an invitation to return to their allegiance to the king, and assuring those of protection and safety who offered no resistance,—and then firing their dwellings and in many cases abusing their persons;—these circumstances aroused throughout the colonies the deepest indignation. They resolved that with such an enemy there never should be peace, but independence or DEATH. The British commander-in-chief, Sir Henry Clinton, was himself ashamed of the unnecessary and useless barbarities committed by Tryon's soldiers in these expeditions, and immediately, on the next day after the burning of Norwalk, recalled him to the Island. Tryon himself, in his official report of his expedition, found it necessary to apologize for his conduct, and Gen. Parsons, who could use the pen as well as the sword, lampooned him. On the 18th June, before he set sail for New Haven, Tryon had the effrontery to address a note to Gen. Putnam or Gen. Parsons, in which he says, at the close, "Surely it is time for rational Americans to wish for a reunion with the parent state, and to adopt such measures as will most speedily effect it."—To which Parsons replied, 7th Sept., "I should have paid an earlier attention to your polite letter of the 18th June, had I not entertained some hope of a *personal* interview with you in your descents upon the defenceless towns of Connecticut to execute your master's vengeance, upon the rebellious women and formidable host of boys and girls, who were induced by your insidious proclamations to remain in these helpless places; and who, if they had been suffered to continue in the enjoyment of that peace their

age and *sex* entitled them to expect from *civilized nations*, you undoubtedly supposed would prove the scourge of Britain's veteran troops, and pluck from *you* those laurels with which that *fiery* expedition so plentifully crowned you. But your sudden departure from Norwalk, and the particular attention you paid to your personal safety when at that place, and the prudent resolution you took to suffer the town of Stamford to escape the conflagration to which you had devoted Fairfield and Norwalk, prevented my wishes on that head. This I hope will sufficiently apologize for my delay in answering your last letter."*

The British hoped by their expedition on the sea-coast of Connecticut, and the destruction of these beautiful towns, to draw Gen. Washington down from the Highlands and bring on a general battle. But, guided by that heaven-inspired wisdom which ever governed him, Washington penetrated their crafty designs; and at the moment when they thought to ensnare him, he planned and executed one of the most brilliant exploits in the history of the revolution. On the 15th July, four days after the burning of this town, the strong-hold of Stony Point was carried by Gen. Wayne, in the dead of night, *at the point of the bayonet*. And the news of the glorious achievement spreading and mingling with the story of British atrocities on the coast, everywhere filled American patriots both with joy and indignation. From that day, we may say, the fate of Britain was sealed as to the colonies. Defeat and disaster followed them; till

* See Hinman's Hist., and Ann. Reg., 1779, London.

Cornwallis surrendered, and our independence was acknowledged.

There is, however, an interesting sequel to the burning of Norwalk, which further illustrates the good providence of Him who ruleth among men. The following winter was one of great severity,—the inhabitants, most of them without houses, without adequate provisions, without money, pressed with debts contracted in the public service, suffered the greatest privations. In a petition, Dec. 1780, signed by John Lockwood and thirty-seven others, they represent, that they were all “burned out of house and home; stripped and plundered by the British of nearly all their household furniture; that they were unable to build or rent comfortable houses, or to carry on their farms; that the price of labor was so high, and state, county, and town taxes so burdensome, it appeared to them impossible ever to settle themselves again in any tolerable manner:”—they therefore prayed the State to abate the taxes laid on the list for 1779 and 1780. At the same time the memorialists, with noble patriotic spirit, declared “that they would exert themselves to bear all public demands willingly and cheerfully, and only regretted that they were not of the same ability to do, as they had been before they had been burnt out.” In answer to this memorial, the state tax of 123 persons in Norwalk, on the list of 1779, and of 119 on that of 1780, was abated.

In 1792, the State was still more just and generous toward the sufferers both of Norwalk and Fairfield. On a joint petition of the inhabitants of the two towns, the General Assembly, by a resolution, “released and quit-

claimed, to the sufferers in these and other towns, and to their legal representatives (if deceased), and to their heirs or assigns, 500,000 acres of land owned by the State west of Pennsylvania, bounded north by Lake Erie, &c., * * said land to be divided among the sufferers and their legal representatives in proportion to the several sums which they had lost by the enemy during the war." The estimated loss to the sufferers in Norwalk, was £26,066 0s. 1d., and the portion of land that fell to them was a few years afterwards settled (1810-1817) by her enterprising sons and daughters, and now constitutes the shire town of the county of Huron in Ohio, bearing the name of Norwalk, and even rivaling the parent-town in population, in resources, in beauty, in education and religion.*

Permit me now to give you a few statistics which may be worth preserving, and then to close, in as few words as the occasion will admit.

The grand list of persons and estates, of Norwalk, as returned to the General Court in 1654, was 24 persons, £2,309.

In 1775, the grand list was £41,955, only nine towns in the State being higher.†

In 1800, the population, including the parishes of New Canaan and Wilton, was 5105.

In 1850, it was 4651; but the whole population in the

* According to the United States census, 1850, Norwalk, O., has 3159 inhabitants, 541 families, 523 dwellings.

† Viz., Fairfield, Farmington, Hartford, Middletown, New Haven, Norwich, Stratford, Wallingford, and Woodbury.

original township, including Westport and what was added of Stamford to New Canaan, is 11,968. .

In 1774, there were 9 *Indians*, remnants of the old stock, resident among us; and as it may serve to-day, to humble us, and perhaps to temper our zeal with charity, in respect of our brethren, in other States, who may still be in the same condition, there were in 1800, 41 *slaves* in Norwalk; in 1810, 12; in 1830, 2; but none appear in the census of 1840; and now all are and we hope ever will be, FREE.*

In regard to *public education*, it must, I think, be conceded, that Norwalk is not entitled to distinction. Of her sons who have graduated at some college, we have ascertained the names of only 25 from Norwalk, proper; 18 from Wilton, and 18 from New Canaan.† The first graduate from Norwalk was Thomas Fitch, jun., 1721, afterwards Governor. A considerable number of the graduates obtained their education by their own personal efforts, encouraged and aided by benevolent and Christian friends: one reason,—probably the main one,—that no more have been publicly educated is, the powerful inducements to our young men to engage in mercantile, commercial or mechanical pursuits,—with almost a certain prospect of competence and even wealth. To the CITY—the great emporium of trade and wealth, our young men have eagerly resorted. Like an overflowing stream, emptying itself into an ocean, thither they have flowed from this and neighboring towns, and have found full scope for their enterprise in that great commercial metropolis.

* See Appendix No. iii.

† See List of Graduates, Appendix, No. iv.

We believe, too, that their influence has been felt in stamping the city with indelible marks of New England and Puritan character.

In respect to *longevity*, the town is remarkable. In 1694, or 43 years after the settlement began, the names of 14 of the original settlers appear on the Town Records; "for 80 years, there was no general sickness; and from 1715 to 1719, but twelve deaths occurred in the whole town. Out of the train-bands, consisting of 100 men, there died not one person from 1716 to 1730, during a period of fourteen years."* Of twelve Deacons of the first Church, whose names are preserved, the average age, at the time of decease, was 74.6 years: and of members of the Church at the settlement of Rev. Mr. Swan, in 1807, the average age, at decease, of twenty-five, taken as they stand on the record, was 82; and the average of seventy-two, whose age, at decease, is known, was 74.8 years.† The widow of Rev. Thomas Hanford, died 12th Sept., 1730, aged 100 years; Mrs. Mercy Gregory, widow of Jabez, died Oct. 28, 1839, aged 100 years.

The town is also remarkable for adhering to, and sustaining, its citizens in *office*. Their "steady habits" in this respect cannot, I think, suffer in comparison with any other town in the State. One might suppose that *office* was a kind of personal commodity, which once obtained no one could take away. The modern idea of "*rotation in office*" was very far from the thought and

* MSS. of Rev. Moses Dickinson, in Trumb. Hist.

† See List of Members, &c., lately published.

practice of our fathers. Of Deputies or Representatives to the General Assembly,

RICHARD OLMSTED, the first chosen, at the May or October session, or both, was Deputy . 14 years.

MATTHEW CAMPFIELD 13

WALTER HOYT 11

JOHN GREGORY, sen. . . . 16

DANIEL KELLOGG 8

JOHN BOWTON, sen. . . . 13

JOHN PLATT 11

SAMUEL HAYES 15

SAMUEL HANFORD 13

SAMUEL COMSTOCK 10

JAMES LOCKWOOD 18

SAMUEL FITCH 16

THOMAS FITCH, jun., or Col. . . . 14

But to cap the climax, and to show an example of confidence in a Representative, that probably never will be, if it ever has been, surpassed, we have the record, that the "Worshipful" JOSEPH PLATT, Esq. was, during a period of 65 years, *i.e.* from 1705 to 1770, Representative *fifty years!*

In later times, or since the revolution,

SAMUEL C. SILLIMAN was Representative 15 years.

JABEZ GREGORY 7

BENJAMIN ISAACS 13*

Of Town Clerks, we have the names of *ten* only,—preceding the present incumbent,—whose average period of service, was 19 years. Of these, James Olmstead served in the office, from 1675 to 1707, 29 years; and Samuel Grumman from 1764 to 1804, a period of 40 years.†

* Appendix, No. v.

† Appendix, No. v.

Fathers and brethren—descendants of the original stock—and citizens of every name: in reviewing our history through a period of two hundred years, there appears a bright galaxy of useful and honored names, which it cannot be deemed invidious to our ears, to mention. As to the general character of the people, they have, from the first, evinced their origin as the true Puritan stock, maintaining the “steady habits” which characterize their fellow-citizens of the State.

But, to be more particular, THOMAS FITCH is, and ever will be, an honored name in our history. The first of the name was born in Bocking, Essex county, in England, and came to this country in 1638. He was a man of piety, prudence, of sound judgment, a peace-maker; and possessing a larger estate than any other settler, was soon looked up to as a leader and father in all town affairs. Thomas Fitch, jun., who died in 1731, and who first appears in the list of estates, 1669, inherited his father’s virtues, and held many important offices in the gift of the town. The third Thomas, grandson of the original settler, was the Governor. He seems, at first, after his graduation, 1721, to have studied divinity, and to have been licensed to preach.* But afterwards, he became eminent in civil life—was Lieutenant-Governor, Chief-Justice of the Colony, and Governor from 1754 to 1766. His epitaph is yet legible on his tomb-stone: “Eminent and distinguished among mortals, for great abilities, and a virtuous character; a clear, strong, sedate mind; and an accurate, extensive acquaintance with law and civil government; a happy talent of presiding; close

* Rec. of Norwalk, 1726, p. 117.

application, and strict fidelity in the discharge of important trusts, no less than for his employments, by the voice of the people, in the chief offices of state, and at the head of the colony. Having served his generation, by the will of God, he fell asleep, July 18, A.D. 1774, in the 75th year of his age." Col. Thomas Fitch, son of the governor, was a zealous patriot during the revolution. The name of Fitch still lives in the annals of the town.*

RICHARD OLMSTEAD, nephew of James, who was "one of Mr. Hooker's company," was eminent for his varied talents for all active and responsible business. He was, to our infant settlement, what Capt. Miles Standish was to the Plymouth colony; a brave, prudent, resolute commander, fit to exercise the soldiers, look after and take care of the Indians, to survey and settle boundary lines, adjust controversies with Fairfield and Stamford, and to represent the town as Deputy in the General Court. His

* In all the biographical notices which I have seen of Governor Fitch, he is said to be a *son* of Thomas, sen., the *original* settler, which evidently is a mistake. The governor, Thomas, died 1774, in the 75th year of his age (not 78th, as is said, by mistake, in Hall's Historical Records). He was, therefore, born 1699; at which time, if living, the *first* Thomas was certainly "old, and well stricken in years"—when we should not expect miracles, as in the case of Abraham. The *second* Thomas, or Thomas, jun., appears in the town records, as having four children in 1672. The *third* Thomas appears in the town records, as Thomas Fitch, jun., 1723, two years after his graduation (when he must have been about twenty-four years of age), and "by major vote of the town, is seated in the pew with the justices, and the town desires that he would read ye psalme, and set ye tune in ye time of publike service." In 1726, he was paid "thirty shillings per day, for two days and a half preaching."—*Rec. Nor.*, pp. 62, 113, 117.

descendants have ever borne trustful and important offices in this town and in Wilton.

The name of MATTHEW MARVIN, sen., is inscribed on almost every page of our early history. He was a Puritan by blood, and came with his family to this country, in 1635. Devout, discreet, calm, sound in judgment, he gained and held the confidence of his fellow-citizens, and discharged for them many offices of civil life. Long may his virtues and honors live in his numerous descendants.

Of the BENEDICTS, Thomas, sen., born in England, 1617, and who came to this town from Jamaica, Long Island, about 1665, is a worthy representative. Of him, it is recorded, that with his wife he walked in the midst of his house, with a perfect heart. He served the church in the office of deacon, for many years; and at his death, in a good old age, his mantle fell on two of his sons. The savor of his piety, as well as his venerable name, has been transmitted through a long line of deacons and other godly descendants, to the seventh generation.

Of the family of BETTS, who can be invidious at the name of THADDEUS, the elder, the skillful physician, discreet and ardent patriot; or of the younger, comely in person, dignified in manners, eminent in law; honored as Lieutenant-Governor, twice elected, of the State, and holding, at the time of his sudden decease, the office of Senator in the Congress of the United States.*

Of the Lockwoods, descendants of Ephraim,† the

* Hon. Thaddeus Betts, son of William Maltby Betts, Esq., of Norwalk, died at Washington City, April 7, 1840, aged fifty-two.

† Ephraim Lockwood, an early settler in Norwalk, was probably son of Robert, who was made freeman of Connecticut, 1652, and was appointed serjeant at Fairfield, May, 1657.

Rev. Samuel, D.D., was a graduate of Yale in 1745; a distinguished minister of Andover, Connecticut; a benefactor of the college, by the contribution of one hundred pounds towards completing the philosophical apparatus in that institution. He was once offered the Presidency of Yale College, which he declined. STEPHEN, son of Stephen, worthy son of a worthy father, was also a graduate of Yale in 1807—was a highly respected citizen of New York city, and an elder in the church of Rev. Dr. Spring. He came to a sudden and mournful death, in the prime of manhood, by the bursting of the boiler of the steamboat Oliver Ellsworth, on the Sound, in 1827.

Of men eminent in professional life, we claim the Rev. JAMES RICHARDS, D.D., late of the Theological Seminary at Auburn, New York, born in the parish of New Canaan; Professor MOSES STUART, the venerable father of Hebrew literature and Greek exegesis in this country, a descendant of Robert Stewart, born in the parish of Wilton. We are proud of the name of GREGORY, FRANCIS H., a brave descendant of the original settler, John. Entering the navy in early youth, he distinguished himself by his daring exploits on Lake Ontario, in 1814, and was then recommended by Com. Chauncey to the notice of the Secretary of the Navy, "as a gallant young officer, not surpassed by any of his grade, in zeal, intelligence and intrepidity." Since then, he has risen through all the grades of office in the navy, to the rank of Commodore, whose gallant ship now bears the flag of the Union, for the protection of our commerce along the coast of Africa.

Never will we blush to own the name of KETCHUM, Capt. DANIEL, who fought for his country, by the side of Scott, and Miller, and Jessup—the bravest of the brave—at Chippewa and Bridgewater, who died in the service of his country, at Little Rock, in Arkansas. There is one fact relating to Capt. Ketchum, not generally known. On the day of the memorable battle of Bridgewater, 25th July, 1814, Capt. Ketchum, of the 25th Infantry, under Major Jessup, in conversation with one of his brother officers, observed, that in twenty-four hours, he would return with Gen. *Riall*, the commander of the British forces, and his suite, prisoners. When the two armies were in close and deadly conflict, Capt. Ketchum, in the evening, with a small company of men, circumvented the British army, and got in their rear. Gen. *Riall*, supposing them to be a body of his own men, ordered them *to charge upon the enemy*. Capt. Ketchum coolly replied, “Sir, I receive no orders from you; I command here; please to dismount.” After a slight resistance, in which one of his aids was killed, Gen. *Riall* surrendered. As Ketchum bore his royal prisoners to the American army, amid a blaze of fire, the event greatly contributed to the issue and glory of the victory on that occasion.—[*Niles’ Weekly Reg. Nov. 5th, 1814.*]

Of the ministers of the town, some of whom have been eminent in their profession,* and all of them well educated men, I cannot be denied the gratification, though it

* See biographical notices in Records of Norwalk, and address by Dr. Hall, at laying of the corner stone of the New Congregational Church, as published in the *Norwalk Gazette*, July 26, 1848; an address well worthy of publication in a better and more enduring form.

may be imputed to partiality, to pay a filial and grateful tribute to the memory of one whose name and image will be among the last to fade from the minds and hearts of those who knew him. I seem, even now, to behold his tall, erect, spare, yet manly form, passing before me; I look on his intelligent, serious, yet pleasing face; I see him, as wont on the Sabbath, walking with slow and thoughtful step along the aisle of the church, his ministerial cloak around him, and ascend the pulpit stairs. I see him take up the large folio Bible, and lay it open on the desk before him; and hear his voice, in solemn, earnest prayer. Who, that ever heard, can forget his preaching—the varied, expressive tones of his voice—his descriptive gestures—the perspicuity of his thoughts—the logic of his argument—the scriptural demonstration of his doctrine—his apt illustrations and anecdote, and especially that emphatic, “*Thus saith the Lord*”? Who does not remember the smile that played on his face, as he gave utterance to some new and happy thought that at the moment flashed in his eye? What youth will ever forget the impressions which his heart must often have felt, under the appeals of that beloved pastor, when he lifted up his eyes to the gallery, and surveying the young on each side, affectionately warned, and invited them to the Savior? Or who forget the terror of that look, when he paused in his sermon, and turned his dark, full eyes, upon some “uncivil” lads, whose noise disturbed him? Faithful man of God! I venerate his memory and name, as I used to do his person. He was, to me—to others, whom I behold around me—a friend, a pastor, a father! At his death, there was sorrow and

mourning; I remember the funeral scene;* how many of the people wept, as they passed round the coffin—placed in the front-yard of the parsonage—and took their farewell look and leave of his mortal remains. How sad and solemn was the procession, the only one of the bearers that survives is a witness to-day.† His funeral discourse was preached by the Rev. Dr. Hewitt, then of Fairfield, from Isa. 51: 6. But his record is on high. Peace—peace to his memory! Long will the name of Rev. ROSWELL RANDALL SWAN live in the hearts and recollections of this people.‡

I trust I shall be pardoned, if after an absence most of the time from my native town, for more than thirty years, I here indulge in some reminiscences of my childhood and youth, that gush fresh from the fountains of memory, and almost demand utterance. In the first

* The writer, then a member of Yale College, obtained leave of absence, on purpose to attend his funeral, the distance being thirty-one miles.

† Rev. *Sylvanus Haight*, then minister of Wilton, now in the 73d year of his age, and preaching as a supply to the Congregational Church in South Norwalk, or “Old Well.”

‡ In the latter part of his ministry, Mr. Swan was occasionally very unwell. On the Sabbath, he often apologized at the beginning of his sermon, saying, that he hardly felt able to proceed; but, yet then, usually preached with more than ordinary earnestness: hence, one of his hearers remarked, “*That he always liked best to hear the parson preach, just before he was going to die.*” Mr. Swan rarely wrote his sermons in full, but only sketched his plan, and leading thoughts; some of his most happy efforts were extemporaneous. His new thoughts illuminated his face in a wonderful manner. He died, of consumption, 22d March, 1819, aged forty.

quarter of this century, there were many ancient men living in the town, to whom, in our childhood, we were required, and accustomed to make obeisance, and whose bald heads and hoary locks were always objects of profound reverence. On the west side of the river, was a continuous line of them, reaching from Ebenezer Phillips' to Walter Hoyt's, at the foot of Rooton Hill. They were all respectable, and most of them godly men, who, were they now alive, would be one hundred years old, and upwards.* Mr. Phillips, himself, was a good specimen of old Puritan simplicity and godliness. He was of the fifth generation, from Rev. George Phillips, who came to this country with Roger Ludlow, Esq., 1630, and who was eminent among the ministers of the Massachusetts colony. Deacon, often called *Leftenant* Raymond, a descendant, it is believed, of Richard Raymond (who was a member of the church, in Salem, Massachusetts, and freeman, 1634), will long be remembered for his copiousness in prayer; he seeming, to young people at least, at an evening conference, literally to fulfill the apostolic precept, to "pray without ceasing." Among the men whose image is impressed on my memory, were two, totally unlike each other, and different from the old stock, already referred to. The one was Elder *Levi Dikeman*, the first efficient preacher of the Baptist principles in town. Grave, solemn, deliberate in speech, persevering

* At decease, Ebenezer Phillips, 76; James Seymour, sen., 82; Nathaniel Benedict, sen., 89; Lemuel Brooks, sen., 73; Capt. Uriah Raymond, 77; Deacon Nathaniel Raymond, 88; Captain William Seymour, 86; Captain Hezekiah Raymond, sen., 82; William Bouton, 79; Thomas Hoyt, —; Walter Hoyt, 76.

and untiring in his labors, he impressed all with a conviction of his sincerity and sanctity. Living and laboring on a farm near Rooton, he performed a weekly tour for preaching to remote districts of the town, often as far as Wilton, and sowed everywhere the seeds which have since, as I am told, ripened into a harvest. The other was *Absalom Day*, of spare and fragile form, of sprightly temper, easily kindled by religion into an enthusiastic flame. His voice, of a still evening, could be heard, in exhortation and prayer, a half a mile. His zeal knew no abatement. He worked, and exhorted, and prayed, all seemingly with the same ardor and success. "Diligent in business, fervent in spirit." The chief founder of the extensive pottery manufacture, he increased in worldly substance; the patron and preacher of the Methodist doctrine, he, more than all others together, laid the foundations of that society's prosperity. These names, I mention with respect, as their influence still lives, and as they should, and will, go down to future generations.

It was then, almost the universal custom, for children and youth to go on foot to meeting, from every part of the town. Carriages were not common—elderly people—husband and wife—usually rode together on horseback, the wife sitting on a pillion, with her right arm about her husband; brothers and sisters sometimes rode from remote districts, in the same way; and I have often seen two young ladies mounted together on a gay horse, riding in a brisk trot or canter, on their return from meeting. The elder Miss Phebe Comstock, for seventy years a professed follower of Christ, who died at the age of eighty-five, used to ride four miles on horseback, at

all seasons, and all weathers, always occupying the same seat in the meeting-house ; which circumstance induced the Rev. Mr. Swan, at her funeral, to preach from the text, "*Those that be PLANTED in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God.*" Ps. 92 : 13. Previous to 1816, there were no Sabbath schools in town. The Assembly's Shorter Catechism was commonly taught by Christian parents at home, and recited on the Sabbath, after meeting. It was also taught in all the District schools, till about the year 1810, when, on account of diversity of sentiments, it was laid aside. Stoves were not then in use, for warming meeting-houses, except small foot-stoves, which some families carried for their own comfort.

In my boyhood, all the children at school were required by the teacher, "to make their manners," as it was called, to old people, and strangers, whom they met. A mail stage then run daily between New York city and Norwalk, which commonly passed the school house on "Flax Hill," about four o'clock P. M., the approach of which was announced by the blowing of a horn. The children, then just released from school, would arrange themselves in lines, and salute the passengers in the stage, with "their manners," for which, very often, we would receive a flattering word—as "good children"—and sometimes a cent or two would be thrown out, which added much, of course, to the interest of the occasion.

Fathers and brethren: the first settlers, and their descendants of the first and second, the third and fourth generations, were a hardy, resolute, enterprising and vir-

tuous race. Their sufferings, hardships and sacrifices were the price of the heritage which we now possess. Contrast then, to-day, the condition of the little band of thirty, building their log-houses at Old Fort Point, with that of the more than ten thousand inhabitants who now cover the ground which their settlement comprised; contrast their small rude meeting-house, with the commodious and elegant temples which now adorn our town; contrast their "wilderness" state, with the gardens and cultivated fields—a paradise of beauty—which everywhere meet our eyes; contrast their "list of estates and accommodations," amounting to £2,309, with the valuation of your real and personal estates in 1850 at 1,362,198 dollars; contrast their fears of Indians, their distresses, exposures and losses in the seven years' war for Civil Liberty, with the joy and freedom and independence of this day! Contrast their means of travel and trade with the steam-vessels, and railways, and lightning-telegraphs, which facilitate your intercourse with places near and remote. Contrast their schools, one "up town," one "down town," and one "over the river," with the convenient arrangements of school houses and school districts, and academies, which afford the means of a generous education to all the children and youth of your population; and as you pursue the contrast, let your hearts ascend in gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

The generations that have preceded us, the past two hundred years, repose in the places of the dead. We bear their names and inherit their possessions. Let us, ere we separate, pledge ourselves to cherish their virtues, and transmit the precious inheritance we have received

to those that shall come after us. Under circumstances like these we shall never re-assemble. Those of us from abroad will return after the festivities of the day, to our distant homes: but our hearts will linger here in sweet recollections of the past and of the present;—living, we shall wish to see the home of our childhood again and again; dying, we shall leave in charge to our children not to forget their father's birth-place. Having exchanged our mutual congratulations, renewed our youthful acquaintances, refreshed our minds with happy reminiscences, we must soon again bid one another an affectionate, and to many a final adieu. In fifty years more, most of us; in an hundred all of us, will be numbered with the dead. Let it be our high aim and endeavor, in our several ways of duty, to serve God and our generation.

“The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace.”

APPENDIX.

No. I., p. 19.

FOR much of the information contained in the following notices, I am indebted to the kindness of Hon. JAMES SAVAGE, of Boston, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society. The articles which are exclusively my own, are distinguished by [].

The First Settlers of Norwalk.

1. ABBITT, GEORGE.—The name of George Abbott is first found in the Colony records of Connecticut, 1640, then a youth, servant to —, of Windsor. He was fined five pounds for selling “a pystoll and powder to the Indians, and to be bound to his good behavior.” He probably came from Dorchester with his master. [He seems not to have been connected with the Abbott’s of the same name, of Andover, Massachusetts.]

2. BEACHAM, ROBERT, or Beauchamp, as in England, the name of that sound was always written, was at Ipswich, Massachusetts, 1648. [In March, 1658, “The Court of Connecticut grants liberty to the persons that cohabit at Bankside (a place betwene Fairfield towne and Norwalke), to take in as a cohabitant with them, Robert Beacham, who lately lived at Norwalke.” He was made freeman of Fairfield, 1664.]—*Col. Rec.*

3. BECKWITH, STEPHEN, was probably that youth, S. B., of eleven years old, brought by Richard Pepper in the Francis, from Ipswich, Suffolk county, England, 1634. [His name appears in *Col. Rec. Connecticut*, 1649, when he must have been twenty-six years old.]

4. BOWTON, JOHN.—[“Jo. Bowton” came to this country in the Assurance, of London, Isaac Bromwell, master, 1635, aged twenty years. He probably went with the Connecticut colony, the same year, to Hartford, where he married his first wife, and had at least one child; thence he went to Norwalk, 1651. In 1656, he married Abigail, daughter of Matthew Marvin, sen., by whom he had five children: viz., John, Matthew, Rachel, Abigail and Mary. John remained in Norwalk; Matthew settled in Danbury, whence sprung the *Boughtons* of that place and elsewhere. John Bowton, sen., was made freeman, 1664; was deputy from Norwalk, 1671 to 1685, selectman, &c.—See *Ancient Hist. Rec. of Norwalk, New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Jan., 1851, and Appendix No. V.*]

5. CAMPFIELD, MATTHEW, is first heard of at New Haven, 1646, but that was eight years after the first settlers (almost all Londoners) went

there. [Mathu Camphile, of Norwalk, was made free, 1654; was deputy, 1654; 1656, appointed assistant; 1658, 1663, deputy; 1664, deputy and commissioner. He removed to Newark, New Jersey, about 1669.]—*Rec. Nor.; Col. Rec.*

6. ELI, or ELY, NATHANIEL, "was, in 1632, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, freeman at General Court, 6th May, 1635; removed next year to Hartford, and in less than twenty years, to Norwalk." [Constable at Hartford, 1639; juror, 1643, 1645, 1649; one of a committee to bound out Indian lands at Golden Hill, 1659; deputy, 1656.]

7. [FITCH, THOMAS, was brother of Joseph, of Windsor, and Rev. James Fitch, of Saybrook and Norwich, came to this country 1638, from Bocking, in Essex, England. James was born 24th December, 1622; if we suppose that Thomas was a younger brother, he may have been about fourteen years old when he arrived in this country, and twenty-seven when he settled in Norwalk. He was made freeman, 1657; was committee, with others, to bound out Golden Hill, 1659; townsman of Norwalk, 1654; clerk of the trained band, and recorder of lands, 1656; and as long as he lived, a leading, useful man, and the richest in the settlement.]

8. GREGORY, JOHN.—[When he came to this country, or whence, is not known. The name *Elizaphatt Gregory* is found at Windsor, 1641; and the name is connected with the Gibbs' family, as Gyles Gibbs had a son, Gregory Gibbs; also Samuel, Benjamin and Jacob. The will of Gyles Gibbs, in which he gives to "Elizaphatt Gregory ten bushels of corne, in case hee discharge the debt to Mr. Huit," was witnessed by John Warham and Ephraim Huit. John Gregory was deputy from Norwalk, 1659, '62, '63.]—*Col. Rec.*

9. HALE, SAMUEL; {

10. HALE, THOMAS, } brothers, as is said, with reasonable presumption, were at Hartford before Norwalk. Samuel was on a jury, 1643 and 1647, '48; deputy from Norwalk, in 1657 and 1660. Thomas was member of the church in Roxbury, Massachusetts, as appears from the following record: "Thomas Hale, a single man, he lived but a short time with us, but he removed to Hartford, on Conecticott, where God blessed him with a good measure of increase of grace; he afterwards returned and married Jane Lord, one of our members, about the twelfth month, 1639, and the next Spring, returned to Conecticott. * * He must have come to this country as early as 1633."

11. HAITE, WALTER, probably son of Simon, of Windsor, [appointed "sergeant," 1659; deputy, 1658, 1659, 1661.] "If he was son of Simon, he was earlier than any other settler of Norwalk, to be found on our side of the ocean, as Simon, no doubt, of Dorchester, was admitted freeman, 18th May, 1631, so we may confidently conclude he had arrived in May preceding, by the Mary and John, with Warham, and the body of his hearers, from Devonshire. But the spelling is improved, or perverted to Hoyt, or from it."

12. HAIES, NATHANIEL.—Nothing certain is ascertained of his origin.

13. HANFORD, THOMAS, REV.—[Cotton Mather says Mr. Hanford

was one of the class of ministers, "who, not having finished their education at home, came over here to perfect it, before our college was come to maturity, to bestow its laurels." He probably finished his studies with the learned Rev. Dr. Charles Chauncy, of Scituate (in the Plymouth colony), who was the second President of Harvard College; for, in 1643, the name of Thomas Hanford stands next to that of Mr. Charles Chauncy, of Scituate, in "the list of all who are able to bear arms," in the New Plymouth Colony. The same year, he witnessed the will of Edward Foster, of Scituate; was made freeman in Massachusetts, 22d May, 1650; began to preach in Norwalk, 1652, and died in 1693. If we suppose he was twenty-one years of age when he witnessed the will of Edward Foster, he must have been about seventy-two at his death.—*N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg.* For further particulars, see Records of Norwalk. I agree with Hon. James Savage, in the remark: "Mr. Hanford is well known as minister of Norwalk, but it is a great shame to the second generation, that so little is told of him."]

14. HOMES, RICHARD, or HOLMES.—"If Richard Holmes, of Rowley, 1643, were his father, he probably was born in Yorkshire, England, as all the early settlers of Rowley were from the parish of that name, in old England."

15. KEEILER, RALPH, [of Hartford, 1639.—His name appears in Colonial Records, 1647: "Nicholas Gynings, for a miscaridge, beating of a cow of Ralfe Keeler's," is fined —. Again, in 1648, "In the action of slander betwene John Webb, plaintiff, and Ralph Keeler, defendand, the jury finds for the defendand."]

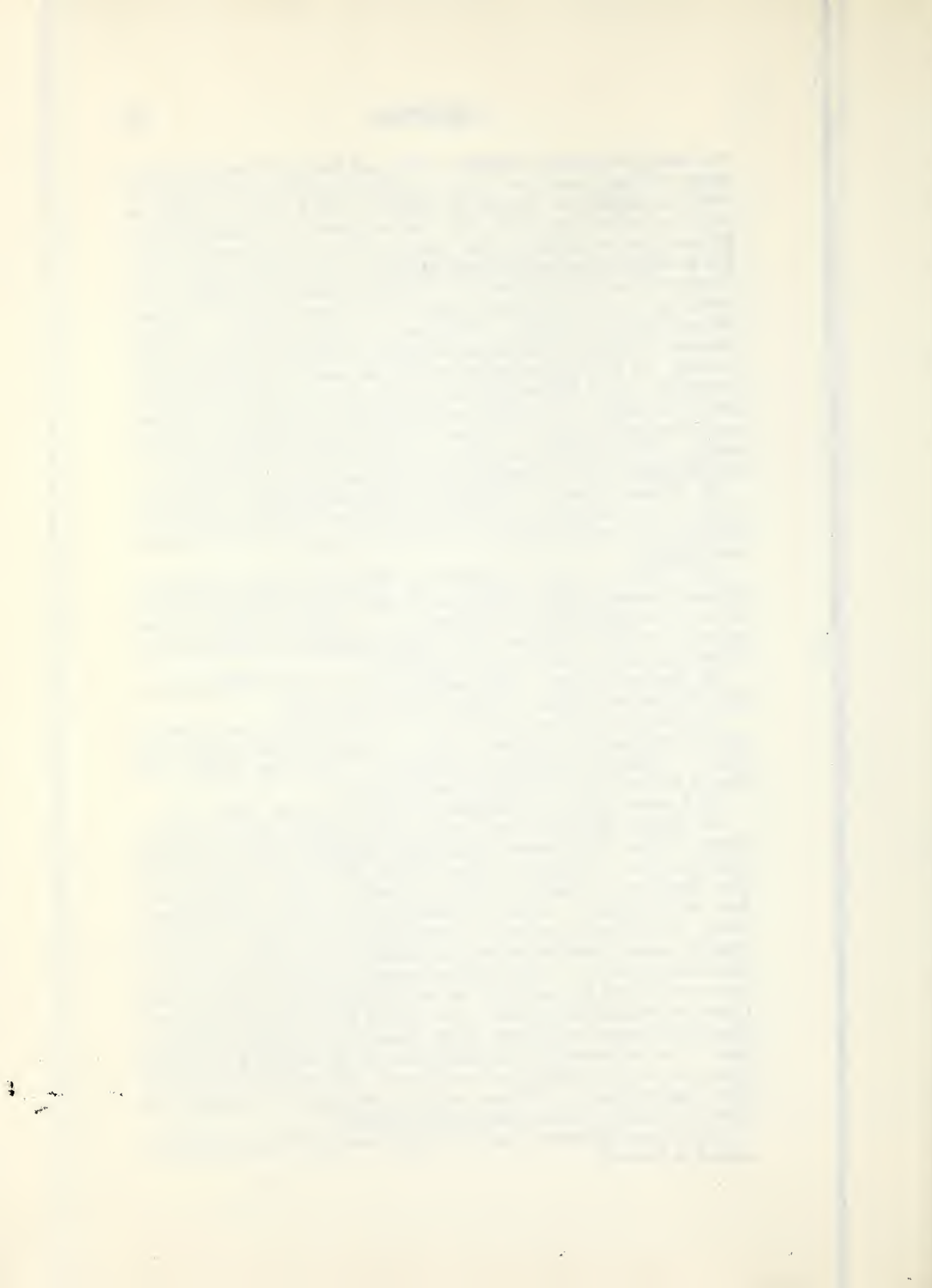
16. KEEILER, WALTER.—Mr. Savage says: "I doubt Walter is altogether a fictitious person. No such name ever occurs."

17. KELLOGGE, DANIEL.—[Neither his first residence, nor when he came to this country, is known. He was made freeman of Norwalk, 1664. Nathaniel Kellock is mentioned in *Col. Rec.*, 1649; and Joseph Kelodg, 1654, as both of Farmington.]

18. LUPTON, THOMAS, of Norwalk, was made freeman, 1664.

19. MARVIN, MATTHEW, sen., [came to this country, 1635, in the *Hubandman*, Robert Lea, master, then aged thirty-five years, and called "Hubandman." With him came his wife, Elizabeth, 31 years; children, Matthew, 8; Marie, 6; Sara, 3; Hanna, $\frac{1}{2}$; other children were born in this country. He was of Hartford; an owner of real estate, 1639. In 1649, at a particular Court, 24th April, "Matthew Marvin, plaintiff, contra Matthew Beckwith, defendand, in an action of defamation, damages £50." "The defendand making his publick penitent confession of his evil, in slandering the said plaintiff, was remitted by the Court and plaintiff."—*Col. Rec.*—Was deputy from Norwalk, 1651, and appointed assistant magistrate, 1659, "freed from watching and trayninge." As the Records of Norwalk show, he was always held in high esteem, as an able, upright and useful man. He was the ancestor of Hon. Charles Marvin, of Wilton, and his descendants are numerous and highly respectable, in every part of the country.]

20. MARVIN, MATTHEW, jun., was aged twenty-four years when he settled at Norwalk.



21. MORE, ISACKE, [of Farmington, 1649, was presented to the Court, "for sergeant, as chosen by the souldgers, and was approved by the Court." April 20th, 1665, "the Court frees Isaac More from training, he having formerly bin chief officer of the Traine Band of Farmington."—*Col. Rec.*]

22. MARSH, JONATHAN.—Nothing certainly known.

23. MORGAN, WIDOW.—Mr. Savage says: "To the widow Morgan, I can give no tenderness, and have some doubt whether she be not an impostor; that is, that the record was mistaken, by Hall." [That the widow was a real person, whose name is on the record, the writer can testify, having seen it with his own eyes.]

24. OLMSTED, RICHARD, [was nephew of James, "who was one of Mr. Hooker's company," at Cambridge (then Newton) who came, probably from Braintree, Essex county, in England. "James was made freeman of Massachusetts, 6th November, 1632; went, with the general movement, to Hartford, 1635; was father of Nicholas and Nehemiah, and uncle of Richard and John, who probably came to this country with their uncle James," no mention being anywhere made, of their father. James, at his decease, left an estate, inventoried at £397 19s. 2d., in which were "three bibles, and three other books." By his will, the chief of his estate was given to his sons, but the settlement of it was committed very much to his executors, Richard Webb and William Wordsworth. They "mutually agreed, as desirous to fulfil that which we conceive to be the mind of the father, to add to those bequeathed, which are specified, these legases following: That is to say, to his kinsman, Richard Olmsted, five pound, and to his kinsman, John Olmstead, five pound, * * * and unto the Church of Christ, in Hartford, twenty pounds, to be paid in three years after the said father's decease." See *copy of will, Col. Rec. pp. 446-448.* Richard Olmstead was one of the petitioners for the planting of Norwalk, 1650; held almost every kind of office; was first deputy from Norwalk, 1653; appointed sergeant, the same year; again deputy, in 1658, '60, '61, '62, '63, '64, &c.; leather sealer, 1656; lieutenant in 1659; grand juror, 1660; to run the line between Fairfield and Stratford, 1661, &c.—See *Col. Rec., and Rec. Nor.* Richard is the ancestor of the Olmsteads, of Wilton, and of Hawley Olmstead, Esq., of New Haven.]

25. RICHARDS, NATHANIEL, "was fellow-passenger with Olmstead," of Mr. Hooker's company, at Cambridge, 1632; admitted freeman of Massachusetts, same year; went to Hartford, 1635; [on a jury at Hartford, 1643, '44, and '46; deputy from Norwalk, 1658; an influential and useful man.—See *Rec. Nor.*]

26. RUSCOE, JOHN, "was son of William, who, with wife and children, came, 1635, in the *Increase*, fellow-passengers with the tribe of Marvin. This stock was transplanted from Billerick, in Essex, England."—(*Vol. 8, p. 258 of third series Mass. Hist. Coll.*) [William Ruscoe was on a jury at Hartford, 1641, '44; had charge of prisoners, and house of correction, 1647, '49, '50.]—See *Col. Rec.*

27 and 28. SENSION, MATTHIAS, *sen.*, and *jun.*, or ST. JOHN.—The father was of Dorchester; admitted freeman, 1634.

29. MATTHEW SENSION.—Mr. Savage says: "Matthias sen. and jun. ought to have contented Hall, without his feeling bound to believe in *Matthew* also. I have read too many records to tolerate such addition;" [yet there is a *Matthew Sension* at Dorchester, 1637 (*see List of Inhabitants, Appendix Dr. Harris' Discourse*, 1830), and *Matthew Sension* was on a jury at Hartford, 1643, '44.]

30. SEAMER, THOMAS.—His origin, and first residence, unknown.

31. WEB, RICHARD, was probably of "Mr. Hooker's company; settled at Cambridge, 1632; admitted freeman, same year; [on the grand jury at Hartford, 1643; on jury, 1644; "~~was fined~~ for not appearing at Courte seasonably to serve on the jury, 2s. 6d." December, 1643; was one of the executors of the will of James Olmstead, 1640; deputy from Norwalk, 1655; removed to Stamford, and admitted freeman of the colony, 1662.]—*Col. Rec., and Mass. Hist. Coll.*

Of the above thirty-one names, it will appear, on comparison with the "table of original grants of home-lots" (*Rec. Nor., pp. 22-29*), that only nineteen had "home-lots" laid out to them. Mr. Savage says: "Probably a portion of these persons called first settlers, were never at Norwalk, except to look out, it may be, for some desirable lots, as in other towns, we often find proprietors, in the early days, living elsewhere." For facts respecting others besides the above, mentioned in the Ancient Records of Norwalk, by Rev. Dr. Hall, pp. 18-29, but most of whom undoubtedly came subsequent to 1655, or even 1660, I must refer the reader to what Dr. Hall says, in the Ancient Records.

☞ THE Note on pp. 7-8 respecting the supposed ancestors of REV. DR. HEWETT and GOV. BISSELL demands further examination. The conjecture in the said Note I have not been able to verify.

THE AUTHOR.

No. II., p. 42.

Signers of said Petition, copied from Hinman's History.

JOHN RICH,
NATHAN ST. JOHN,
JABEZ GREGORY,
DANIEL BETTS, jun.,
JOHN ABBOTT, jun.,
SETH ABBOTT,
DANIEL RICHARDS,
JOHN HAWLEY,
ALVEN HYATT,
MYER MYERS,
ABRAHAM BENEDICT,
SAMUEL MARVIN,

BENJAMIN JACOBS,
MATTHEW MARVIN,
THOMAS FITCH,
STEPHEN ST. JOHN, 2d,
NATHANIEL BENEDICT,
THADDEUS BETTS,
DAVID COMSTOCK,
SAMUEL GRUMMON,
OZIAS MARVIN,
DANIEL BENEDICT,
STEPHEN KEELER, jun.,
JOHN HANFORD,

ISAIAH MARVIN,
 HEZEKIAH HANFORD,
 JESSE BENEDICT,
 NATHANIEL RAYMOND,
 TIMOTHY WHITNEY,
 EBENEZER LOCKWOOD,
 WILLIAM TAYLOR,
 JONATHAN BROWN,
 ISAAC WARREN,
 ICHABOD MARVIN,
 PETER ST. JOHN,
 AARON ADAMS,
 URIAH SMITH,
 DANIEL FINCH,
 ELIPHALET LOCKWOOD,
 A. C. JACOBS,
 ABRAHAM GREGORY,
 ELEAZER HANFORD,
 NATHAN ADAMS,
 NEHEMIAH BENEDICT,
 ASAHEL RAYMOND,
 ABRAHAM SCRIBNER,
 NEHEMIAH GRUMMON,
 SOLOMON SIMSON,

MATTHEW MALORY,
 THOMAS COMSTOCK,
 THEOPHILUS FITCH,
 JOSIAH TAYLOR, jun.,
 AZOR BELDEN,
 CHARLES POPE,
 ROBERT WATERS,
 HAYNES FITCH,
 DANIEL FITCH,
 WILLIAM ST. JOHN,
 JOHN EVERSLEY,
 DANIEL EVERSLEY,
 GERSHOM HYATT,
 ELI REED,
 JESSE RAYMOND,
 CLAP RAYMOND,
 BENJAMIN WYNKOOP,
 ISAAC LEWIS,
 JOHN HYATT,
 FOUNTAIN SMITH,
 DAVID WHITNEY,
 EBENEZER WHITNEY,
 PHINEAS HANFORD.

71.

No. III., p. 54.

Summary of the United States Census of Norwalk, 1850.

POPULATION.

Number of white males	2,187	Dwelling-houses	. . . 774
“ of white females	2,392	Families	. . . . . 961
“ of colored males	39	Deaths, 1850	. . . . . 67
“ “ females	33		
Total,	4,651		

VALUATION OF ESTATE, REAL AND PERSONAL.

Real Estate	. . . . .	\$794,887
Personal Estate	. . . . .	226,762

Total, as valued by Assessors	. . . . .	1,021,649
True valuation	. . . . .	\$1,362,198

Newspapers, 2—political; circulation, 1,500.
 Schools, District, 9; pupils, 485; teachers, 10.
 Academy, 1.

Churches, 1st Congregational will seat 1000 persons; property, \$28,500.
 2d Congregational will seat 500 persons.
 1 Baptist, will seat 600 persons; property, \$7,000.
 1 Methodist, will seat 600 persons; property, \$5,000.
 1 Episcopalian, will seat 800 persons; property, \$31,000.

Paupers, 17; cost of support, \$920.

Average monthly wages to a farm-hand, with board	\$13 00
“ to a day-laborer, with board	62½
“ to a day-laborer, without board	87½
“ to a carpenter, daily, without board	1 37½
“ weekly wages to a female domestic	1 00
Price of board to laboring men, per week	2 25
<i>Taxes</i> .—Town	\$1888 35, cash.
Highway	944 17, paid in labor.
State	708 28, cash.

PRODUCTIONS OF AGRICULTURE.

Acres of improved land	4,062
“ Unimproved land	1,680
Cash value of farms	\$482,195
Value of farming instruments and machinery	\$6,795
Horses, number	128
Milch cows	218
Working oxen	196
Other cattle	310
Swine	378
Sheep	163
Value of live stock	\$23,555
Wheat produced, bushels	2,110
Rye “ “	1,959
Indian corn “ “	9,590
Oats “ “	10,175
Irish potatoes “	7,644
Wool, lbs.	411
Buckwheat, bushels	584
Barley “	58
Value of orchard products	\$423
Butter, lbs.	24,445
Value of animals slaughtered	\$6,558

VARIOUS KINDS OF MANUFACTURES.

Capital invested	\$233,600
Value of annual product	\$489,108

No. IV., p. 54.

Furnished by HAWLEY OLMSTEAD, Esq., of New Haven.

Graduates from Norwalk, proper.

THOMAS FITCH, Gov.	.	.	.	.	1721	
THADDEUS BETTS	.	.	.	.	1745	
SAMUEL LOCKWOOD, D.D.	.	.	.	.	1745	Clergyman.
ENOCH HANFORD, Yale	.	.	.	.	1800	
CHARLES MARVIN	.	.	.	.	1806	
THADDEUS BETTS	.	.	.	.	1807	U. S. Senator.
DAVID HANFORD	.	.	.	.	1807	
EZRA KELLOGG	.	.	.	.	1807	
STEPHEN LOCKWOOD	.	.	.	.	1807	
CHARLES W. TAYLOR	.	.	.	.	1807	
WILLIAM HANFORD	.	.	.	.	1808	Clergyman.
JONATHAN KNIGHT	.	.	.	.	1808	Prof. Y. Col.
STEPHEN SAUNDERS, Princeton, N. J.	.	.	.	.	1814	C.
GEORGE MARVIN	.	.	.	.	1817	
NATHANIEL BOUTON	.	.	.	.	1821	C.
HENRY BENEDICT	.	.	.	.	1822	C.
EBENEZER CHURCH	.	.	.	.	1826	
CHARLES G. SELLECK	.	.	.	.	1827	C.
SAM. B. S. BISSELL	.	.	.	.	1830	C.
MELANCTHON HOYT	.	.	.	.	1830	C.
BENJAMIN LOCKWOOD	.	.	.	.	1830	C.
FRANKLIN TAYLOR	.	.	.	.	1843	
AUGUSTUS SAMMIS	.	.	.	.	1844	
CHARLES A. DOWNS, N. Y. Univ.	.	.	.	.	1845	C.
FREDERICK ST. JOHN LOCKWOOD	.	.	.	.	1849	

Graduates from Wilton.

DAVID LAMBERT, Yale.	1761
DAVID BELDEN, do.	1785
MATTHEW MARVIN, do.	1785
MOSES STUART, do.	1799
WILLIAM BELDEN, do.	1803
LEWIS BELDEN, Nass. Hall.	1811
CHARLES BELDEN, do.	1812
HAWLEY OLMSTEAD, Yale.	1816
STEPHEN HUBBELL, do.	1826
CHARLES A. MARVIN, do.	1823
S. R. HURLBUTT, do.	1843
CHARLES JONES, do.	1843
EDWARD OLMSTEAD, do.	1845
SAMUEL G. WILLARD, do.	1846
ROGER S. OLMSTEAD, do.	1849
ISAAC M. STURGES, Union.	1817
JOHN BETTS, Trinity.	1845
MARVIN BELDEN, do.	1849

Number, 18.

Graduates from New Canaan.

DANIEL SMITH, Yale.	1791
ELIPHALET ST. JOHN, do.	1791
J. W. KELLOGG, do.	1803
MINOT MITCHELL, do.	1803
JAMES ST. JOHN, do.	1803
JAMES LOCKWOOD, do.	1806
JOSEPH SILLIMAN, do.	1806
WILLIAM SILLIMAN, do.	1808
AMZI BENEDICT, do.	1814
WM. CARTER, do.	1828
SHERMAN FINCH, do.	1828
EDWIN STEVENS, do.	1828
DAVID C. COMSTOCK, do.	1830
J. R. FAVERWEATHER, do.	1831
L. S. BENEDICT, do.	1834
SAMUEL ST. JOHN, do.	1835
JOSIAS W. CARTER, do.	1836
WM. C. AYRES, do.	1837

Number, 18.

Rev. JAMES RICHARDS, D.D., Prof. in Theol. Sem., at Auburn, a native of New Canaan, was not a regular Graduate. Mr. E. STEVENS, a Missionary of A. B. C. F. M., died in the East Indies. Of the Graduates from Wilton, five studied Theology, and the same number from New Canaan.

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No. V., p. 56.

Representatives to General Assembly from Norwalk.

Copied by WM. S. PORTER, from the State Records at Hartford, and furnished by JOHN A. WEED, Esq., Town Clerk of Norwalk.

Richard Olmsted, May 1653; Oct. '54, M. '58, O. '60, M. '62, '63, '64, O. '65, '66, M. '67, '68, M. '69, M. '71, M. '79.

Mr. Matthew Campfield, May 1654, M. '55, M. '56, M. '57, M. '58, M. '59, M. '60, M. '61, '62, O. '63, '64, '65, '66.

Matthew Marvin, May 1654.

Richard Webb, May 1656.

Samuel Hales,* 1656, '57, '60.

Nathaniel Ely, Oct. 1656.

Isaac Moore, Oct. 1657.

Nathaniel Richards, Oct. 1658.

Walter Hoyt, Oct. 1658, '61, '67, O. '68, M. '70, M. '71, M. '72, O. '73, O. '74, M. '76, M. '78, O. '81.

John Gregory, Oct. 1659, O. '62, M. '63, M. '65, O. '67, M. '68, '69, O. '70, O. '71, M. '74, M. '75, O. '77, M. '79, O. '80, M. '81, O. '85.

John Douglas, Oct. 1669.

Thomas Benedict, May 1670, M. '75.

Daniel Kellogg, Oct. 1670, M. '72, O. '74, O. '75, M. '77, O. '79, M. '80, O. '83.

John Bowton, Oct. 1671, O. '73, M. '74, M. '75, O. '76, '77, M. '78, O. '79, M. '80, M. '81, '82, M. '83, '85.

Nicholas Hoyt, Oct. 1672.

Mark Sension, Oct. 1672, O. '76, O. '78, '84.

Thomas Fitch, May 1673.

John Platt, Oct. 1678, O. '80, O. '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, M. '91, O. '92, O. '94.

Samuel Hayes, May 1686, '87, O. '89, M. '92, '93, M. '94, M. '95, M. '96, '97, '98, O. '99, M. 1800, M. '1, O. '2, O. '3.

Christopher Comstock, Oct. 1686, M. '89, M. '90.

Samuel Smith, May 1691.

Edward Messenger, May 1691.

John Belding, Oct. 1691, May 1705.

James Olmsted, Oct. 1691, O. '92, O. '93, M. '99.

Thomas Betts, May 1692, Oct. '94, 1704, O. '5, M. '7.

* When no months are specified, both Sessions are included.

- Samuel Betts, May 1693, May 1710.
 Matthew Marvin, May 1694, '97.
 Jakin Gregory, May 1695.
 Andrew Messenger, Oct. 1696, O. 1800, O. '1, M. '2.
 John Keeler, Oct. 1698.
 Samuel Keeler, Oct. 1801, O. '3, M. '4, M. '6, '9.
 Joseph Platt, May 1705, O. '6, O. '7, O. '8, O. '9, M. '10, O. '11, O. '12,
 O. '13, O. '14, O. '16, O. '18, '19, O. '20, M. '21, O. '22, O. '24, O.
 '25, O. '26, O. '27, '28, O. '29, O. '30, '31, '32, '33, O. '34, O. '37,
 O. '38, M. '39, '45, O. '46, O. '48, '49, '50, M. '51, '52, O. '53, O. '54,
 O. '55, O. '57, M. '58, '59, '60, M. '61, M. '62, '65, '66, O. '67,
 M. '70.
 Samuel Hanford, Oct. 1705, M. '7, M. '8, M. '11, M. '14, O. '17, O. '19,
 M. '20, O. '22, O. '33, '35, '36, '37.
 John Copp, May 1706, M. '16, O. '18, M. '19.
 John Betts, Oct. 1708, M. '9, O. '10, M. '15, M. '16.
 Samuel Comstock, Oct. 1711, O. '14, M. '20, O. '23, O. '25, O. '26, O.
 '27, O. '28, O. '29, O. '30.
 Matthew Seymour, Oct. 1712, O. '13.
 Samuel Kellogg, May 1714.
 John Read, May 1715, O. '17.
 John Raymond, Oct. 1716.
 John Bartlet, May 1718.
 Samuel Marvin, May 1718.
 James Brown, Oct. 1720, May '56, M. '57.
 James Lockwood, May 1721, M. '22, O. '23, O. '24, M. '26, M. '27,
 M. '29, '32, M. '33, '35, M. '38, O. '39, 1740, O. '42, M. '46, O. '48,
 O. '49, O. '51.
 John Benedict, May 1722, M. 25.
 Eliphalet Lockwood, May 1724.
 Matthew Gregory, May 1724.
 Thomas Fitch, May 1726, M. '27, M. '29, M. '30. Chosen Assistant.
 Benjamin Hickox, May 1728.
 Joseph Birchard, May 1730, M. '34.
 John Betts, Oct. 1731, Oct. '36, M. '39, '41, M. '42, M. '43.
 John Marvin, May 1734, M. '38.
 Daniel Hoit, Oct. 1734.
 Samuel Fitch, May 1736, O. '41, '42, M. '43, '44, '45, '46, '47, M. '48,
 '50, M. '51, '52, O. '53, M. '54, O. '60, M. '61.
 Thomas Benedict, May 1737, Oct. '40, O. '44.
 Joseph Comstock, Oct. 1738.
 Samuel Cluckston, Oct. 1739, M. '40.
 John Belding, May 1741.
 Elnathan Hanford, 1747, M. 1748.
 Nehemiah Mead, May 1749.
 David Lambert, Oct. 1751.
 James Fitch, May 1753, O. '54, M. '55, '57.
 Noah Taylor, May 1753.

- Theophilus Fitch, May 1754.
 Peter Lockwood, Oct. 1755, O. '61, O. '62, '63, '64.
 Joseph Betts, May 1760.
 Thomas Fitch, jun., Oct. 1761, '63, '64, '65, '66, M. '67, O. '68, '69, O. '70, O. '71, O. '72, O. '73, O. '75, M. '76.
 Nathaniel Benedict, Oct. 1762.
 Joseph Hall, May 1767.
 Asa Spalding, May 1768.
 Thomas Belding, Oct. 1768, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74, May '75, M. '87, '88, O. '89; Belden, '93.
 Uriah Rogers, May 1772.
 Dr. Thaddeus Betts, Oct. 1774, O. '75, '76, M. '84, O. '85, M. '86.
 Moses Comstock, May 1777.
 Daniel Betts, jun., May 1777.
 Clapp Raymond, 1778, O. '79, O. '83.
 Stephen St. John, 1778, '80, M. '81, '82, M. '83, '84, M. '85; died May 9.
 Samuel C. Silliman, Oct. 1777, May '79, O. '80, O. '81, M. '82, '83, O. '84, '85, O. '86, '87, '88, '89, M. '91, '92, '94.
 Matthew Mead, May 1779, '80, '81.
 James Richards, Oct. 1779, O. '82.
 Eliphalet Lockwood, Oct. 1781, O. '86, O. '90, '91, O. '94, '95, '96.
 Hezekiah Rogers, May 1786, Oct. '87, M. '88.
 Job Bartram, Oct. 1790, O. '91, M. '92.
 Samuel Comstock, Oct. 1792, '93, O. '95.
 Taylor Sherman, May 1794, M. '95, M. '96.
 Matthew Marvin, Oct. 1796, '97, M. '98, '99.
 John Cannon, May 1797.
 Joseph Silliman, Oct. 1797, M. 1800, M. '1.
 Roger M. Sherman, 1798.
 Isaac Richards, 1799.
 William M. Betts, 1800, '1, '2, '3, O. '4, '9, '10.
 Phineas Miller, Oct. 1801, '2, M. '4.
 Jabez Gregory, 1804, M. '5, '6, '7, O. '8, '11, '12.
 Stephen St. John, May 1805, '6.
 John Hanford, Oct. 1805.
 George Raymond, Oct. 1805, M. '7.
 Stephen Lockwood, Oct. 1807.
 Moses Gregory, May 1808, '20, '21, '23, '24, '27. Convention, 1818.
 John Taylor, 1808.
 Jacob Osborne, 1809, '10, Oct. '14.
 Samuel Bowton, 1811.
 Thomas Reed, 1812, M. '13, '25, '26.
 Benjamin Isaacs, 1813, '15, '16, M. '17, O. '18, '19, '20, '22, '24, '25, '27, '28, '34.
 Moses W. Reed, Oct. 1813, M. '14.
 John Eversley, May 1814, O. '15, M. '16. Convention, 1815.
 Lewis Mallory, Oct. 1814.

Thaddeus Betts, May 1815, '30.
 Samuel B. Warren, Oct. 1816, '28.
 William J. Street, Oct. 1817, M. '18.
 Dan Taylor, 1818.
 Andrew Hanford, 1819.
 James Quintard, 1821.
 Noah Wilcox, 1822, '23, '35, '36.
 David Roberts, 1826, 31.
 Charles W. Taylor, 1829, '35.
 Clark Bissell, 1829, '41, '50.
 Eli B. Bennett, 1830, '31, '48.
 John D. Loundsbury, 1832, '33.
 Thomas B. Butler, 1832, '33, '37, '43, '46.
 Samuel Comstock, 1834.
 Lewis Gregory, 1836, '37, '38.
 Timothy T. Merwin, 1838.
 Algernon E. Beard, 1839, '40, '44, '45, '50.
 Joseph W. Hubbell, 1839, '40.
 Henry Sellick, 1841, '42.
 Matthew Wilcox, 1842, '43.
 Charles Thomas, 1844.
 William S. Lockwood, 1845, '46.
 Samuel Jarvis, 1847.
 Asa Hill, 1847.
 Harvey Pennoyer, 1848.
 Gould D. Jennings, 1849.
 William H. Benedict, 1849.
 Ebenezer Hill, 1851.
 Henry M. Prowitt, 1851.

Town Clerks of Norwalk; furnished by JOHN A. WEED, Esq.

Thomas Fitch, 1654, '55, '56, '57, '58, '74, '75, '76, '80, '81, '86.
 Nathaniel Gregory, 1659.
 Matthew Marvin, jun., 1660, '61, '62.
 Thomas Benedict, 1665 to 1674 and '77.
 James Olmstead, 1678, '79, '82, '83, '84, '85, and '87 to 1707.
 Samuel Hanford, 1707 to 1708.
 John Copp, 1708 to 1740.
 Elnathan Hanford, 1740 to 1764.
 Samuel Grumman, 1764 to 1804.
 Jacob Osborn, 1804 to 1814.
 Benjamin Isaacs, 1814 to 1844.
 John A. Weed, 1844 to

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